

## Egypt to demand war reparations from Iraq

CAIRO (R) — Egypt said on Monday it would ask Iraq to pay reparations for revenue lost as a result of its invasion of Kuwait. Information Minister Safwat Shari said after a cabinet session the request, based on U.N. resolutions calling on Baghdad to pay compensation for the invasion, would be sent to the Security Council. Iraq has accepted all 13 U.N. resolutions on the Gulf crisis since allied forces, including Egyptian troops, drove its army from Kuwait last week. The minister, quoted by the Egyptian News Agency MENA, said the invasion had cost Egypt — revenue from tourism and its national airline. Egyptians working in Iraq had also not been paid. Egypt, the most populous Arab state, had some two million citizens working in Iraq and 150,000 in Kuwait at the time of the Aug. 2 invasion of the emirate. It has said the war cost it billions of dollars.

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## Iraq releases 10 PoWs, allies to reciprocate today

Combined agency dispatches

THE FIRST concrete signals of a Gulf peace were ushered Monday when Iraq released 10 allied prisoners of war and the U.S. said it would release 300 PoWs Tuesday.

The 10 allied PoWs drove to freedom in Jordan on Monday and the U.S. ambassador reported they had been well treated in Iraq.

A senior Jordanian government official said the PoWs, including American woman soldier Melissa Anne Rathbun-Nealy, 20, flew from the border by helicopter to Amman airport en route to Bahrain.

They would go home after being debriefed in Bahrain, he said, adding that plans to take them to an army hospital for checks were apparently dropped because they appeared to be in good shape.

Witnesses said the 10 looked healthy although one, an American, had his right arm in a sling. "He had fractured his arm

while ejecting from his plane," the U.S. Ambassador to Jordan, Roger Harrison, told reporters. "They said the treatment was good and improved in the last few weeks. They did not talk about physical abuse."

The PoWs were freed within 24 hours of Iraqi generals accepting allies terms for a ceasefire in the six-week Gulf war. The PoWs travelled for seven hours in an

ICRC convoy from Baghdad. They were handed to Werner Kaspar, chief delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Jordan, at Treibeel on the Jordanian-Iraqi border.

Kaspar handed the PoWs over to diplomats at the nearby Ruweished air base, 280 kilometres east of Amman. They refused to talk to reporters at the

base. The 10 arrived wearing bright yellow overalls with the letters P.W. on front and back. They changed into grey-fleeced sweat-suits before boarding two helicopters.

Rathbun-Nealy had her blonde hair tied in a pony tail. Some PoWs hid their faces from cameras.

According to the ICRC, the 10 included six Americans, three Britons and one Italian.

Allied forces have said they will release 300 Iraqi PoWs on Tuesday in response to the Iraqi gesture.

Andreas Wigger, the chief Red Cross delegate in Baghdad, said, the first batch of allied prisoners of war was only made as a goodwill gesture by the Iraqis and they have to work out plans for repatriation of the rest of them.

The allies have said at least 13 allied prisoners, all men and including nine Americans, two Britons, an Italian and a Kuwaiti,

### Terms of military agreement

SAFWAN, Iraq (AP) — Here are key terms worked out Sunday between allied and Iraqi military commanders for a permanent end to fighting in the Gulf war:

— Release of prisoners, including both military and civilian captives of all nationalities, to be worked out with the International Red Cross and with an immediate "symbolic release."

— Identification by Iraq of the location of all mines and booby traps in Kuwait and in the Gulf.

Some information was turned over at the meeting.

— Procedures for keeping Iraqi and allied forces separate in occupied Iraq to avoid further clashes.

— Allied withdrawal of all troops from Iraq when, but not before, a permanent ceasefire is agreed upon and Iraq complies with all pertinent U.N. resolutions, including rescinding its annexation of Kuwait and agreeing to pay war damages.

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## Fierce fighting reported in southern Iraq

## Ibrahim urges loyalty for Saddam

Combined agency dispatches

FIERCE fighting reported Monday in the southern Iraqi city of Basra between units of the Republican Guard and opponents of President Saddam Hussein, including soldiers arriving from Kuwait, while the second-highest official on Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council called on a group of local and military officials to remain loyal to President Hussein.

Izzat Ibrahim, RCC deputy chairman, asked the officials to rise to the "major challenges" facing the Iraqi regime.

Radio Baghdad, monitored in Nicosia, reported Ibrahim as saying: "Comrades, you must raise your awareness and determination to the level that corresponds to the requirements of the phase of major challenges in-

order to keep the fire of the revolution glowing, keep Iraq proud and in order to keep the palm trees of Iraq towering, keep its water fresh, keep its sun rising, keep its mountains un-

shakeable, and to keep its women dignified."

The radio did not say to what specific challenges Ibrahim referred. But reports from the southern

port city Basra and other southern towns indicated growing civil unrest and demonstrations against Saddam. Witnesses on Monday in Safwan said Iraq's Republican Guard had launched a fierce crackdown on a rebellion.

Explosions were heard on Monday in Basra and refugees were reported fleeing across the border to Iran.

The radio said Ibrahim's remarks were made at a meeting attended by governors of Wasit and Maysan, the secretaries of regional Baath Party branches, the commander of the 1st army corps and officials in charge of internal security in the two provinces.

He said: "Fairness, honour and manliness require us as Iraqis to express our loyalty to, and deep belief in this great glory and

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### 'U.S. troops landed on highway'

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq protested to the United Nations Monday that helicopter-borne U.S. troops landed on the main highway to Jordan at the weekend, 160 kilometres from Baghdad.

Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz made the complaint in a letter to the U.N. Security Council reported by Baghdad Radio.

He said six helicopters were involved in the landing on Saturday but he gave no other details. He did not say what the troops did or how long they stayed.

Aziz also protested that U.S. jets broke the sound barrier over Baghdad and other cities on Monday, "terrorising" the public with the noise.

"These actions contradict the agreement in Safwan and constitute sheer unjustified provocation," he said, asking the Security Council to put a stop to it.

## Syria, Egypt, GCC talk in Damascus today

## GCC calls for elimination of mass destruction weapons

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (Agencies) — Foreign ministers of the Saudi Arabian-led Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) called Monday for elimination of weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East.

Outlining their post-war policy, the ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates said it was necessary to eliminate nuclear, chemical and biological arms.

The ministers said in a communique at the end of a two-day meeting that they, along with Syria and Egypt, are developing "the nucleus" of a new Arab post-war framework for political, economic and security arrangements.

The communique stressed support for Iraq's territorial integrity, but condemned Iraq's leadership and held it responsible for all the losses suffered by Kuwait during seven months of occupation.

"The council affirms its complete keenness about the unity and regional safety of Iraqi territory and its support for the Iraqi people in their moment of trial brought about by the Iraqi regime," said the communique.

The ministers called for implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolutions related to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the release of all civilian detainees captured in Kuwait by the Iraqi occupation forces.

Kuwaiti officials have esti-

mated that 33,000 Kuwaitis are missing and have also estimated it would take them five years and \$200 billion to offset the damage of the occupation period.

The communique condemned the Iraqi regime for the "killing, torture and oppression" of the inhabitants of Kuwait under occupation as well as "premeditated burning and looting of its oil wells and oil establishments, destruction of the facets of its human and environmental life, and the plundering of public and private property."

The council called for continued trade sanctions on Iraq until it annulled its annexation of Kuwait and until the issues of

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## UNRWA protests Israeli 2nd assault on staffer

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) complained Monday that Israeli soldiers had abused an international staffer in the second incident in less than two weeks.

Sandro Tucci, spokesman for UNRWA, which aids Palestinian refugees, said Israeli soldiers on Sunday insulted and assaulted an UNRWA staffer on assignment in the Nur Shams refugee camp in the occupied West Bank.

"A soldier approached the window of his car and said 'get out of this camp or I'll break your car,'" Tucci said.

He said the UNRWA staffer demanded to know if the army had declared the camp a "closed military zone," which would prohibit outsiders from entering. Another soldier approached the

car and punched the staffer in the face, splitting his lip and knocking out a tooth, Tucci said. The staffer's name and nationality were not released.

On Feb. 22 an international staffer of UNRWA was grabbed and kicked in the groin by a soldier in the West Bank's Kalandia refugee camp.

Tucci said formal complaints would be filed in Vienna and in Israel.

"We cannot tolerate this," Tucci said. "U.N. personnel are international personnel with diplomatic immunity working in the camps by Israeli agreement and should be respected."

The army spokesman's office said it had no reports of the latest incident but was checking.

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## U.N. aid mission to leave for Iraq, Kuwait

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A United Nations mission to assess humanitarian needs in Iraq and Kuwait could leave for the area on Wednesday or Thursday, Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Monday.

Plans to send the mission, representing a number of U.N. agencies and headed by Under-Secretary General Martti Ahtisaari, were announced last Friday. This followed a visit to Baghdad last month by representatives of the World Health Organisation and the U.N. Children's Fund who described a growing threat of disease and hunger.

Asked when humanitarian assistance would reach Iraq, Perez de Cuellar told reporters: "I hope they (the members of the U.N. team) could leave perhaps

on Wednesday or Thursday." He added: "We are very happy that we are working in a coordinated manner with the Security Council and trying to help from the humanitarian point of view as much as possible."

The President of the council issued a statement on Sunday welcoming plans to send the Ahtisaari mission and urging a council committee that monitors U.N. sanctions against Iraq to continue to act promptly on requests for humanitarian assistance.

The Security Council on Sunday committed itself to expediting humanitarian aid to Iraq but the United States and its allies defeated an attempt to relax the stringent U.N. trade embargo for basic civilian needs.

## Saddam is spirit of Arab resistance — Ghazali

PARIS (R) — Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmad Ghazali praised Iraq and President Saddam Hussein on Monday, saying they represented the spirit of resistance against forces seeking to bring Arabs to their knees. "Iraq and Saddam incarnate, from now on, the spirit of resistance and the rejection of a desire to bring Arabs to their knees," Ghazali told the French daily Le Figaro in an interview. Algeria, where public opinion was massively pro-Iraq during the Gulf war which ended last week, has criticised the invasion of Kuwait but accused the U.S.-led coalition of trying to destroy Iraq. Ghazali accused the Western media of brainwashing public opinion to win support for the coalition and its fight to drive Iraq from Kuwait. The Algerian minister said he did not believe in Washington's new world order. "What we believe and fear is that we are entering an era of new world disorder," he said. The emergence of the United States as the world's sole superpower was dangerous, Ghazali said. "We fear the destruction of the Soviet Union, which has not been compensated for by increased European strength and which leaves a single country in charge of the planet's affairs, brings the same risks as those which exist in a country where there is no opposition," he said.

## Iraq pardons deserters, starts battle for reconstruction

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said it was pardoning army deserters, draft dodgers and soldiers who had gone absent without leave, state Radio Baghdad reported Monday.

Deserters in Iraq would normally face execution.

The radio quoted a statement by the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) — Iraq's highest executive body headed by President Saddam Hussein — as saying those pardoned had a week to report to their units.

The decision came four days after an informal ceasefire ended the Gulf war which pitted Iraq against forces from 28 nations led by the United States.

The RCC said it was understandable that some may have failed to respond to reserve call-ups and field service because of the "disruption of bridges and roads under the circumstances of war... and in view of administra-

tive and transport difficulties." But it said those problems were being remedied and deserters and absentees should report to their units.

The allies say Iraqi commanders agreed in talks held on Sunday to their terms for a permanent ceasefire.

Iraq, whose forces have been driven out of Kuwait, last week discharged from active service reservists born between 1953 and 1956.

Allied commanders said their forces routed Iraq's estimated 550,000 men in and around Kuwait, captured by Baghdad in a lightning attack on Aug. 2.

Iraq, however, says the war gave Baghdad a moral victory and that it was the outstanding fighting performance of its forces that made U.S. President George Bush suspend hostilities last Thursday.

Iraq had a pre-Gulf war army

of one million regulars and reservists. The allies say they captured at least 63,000 Iraqi soldiers during the war.

Iraq also urged its nationals to join in the "battle for reconstruction" following the six-week Gulf war which destroyed much of the country's infrastructure.

And nervous Iraqis feared a de-facto ceasefire had collapsed when allied warplanes broke the sound barrier over Baghdad.

Residents said they heard at least four "explosions" early Monday.

One of them was so powerful that it shook the windows of the Rashid Hotel, headquarters for the foreign press corps in Baghdad.

An Iraqi military spokesman said three bombs were caused by "hostile aircraft" overflying Baghdad and other areas in Iraq.

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## Kuwaiti leaders return home

KUWAIT CITY (Agencies) — Kuwait's government-in-exile, headed by Crown Prince Saad Al Sabah, returned Monday from seven months of exile in Saudi Arabia to a country wrecked by war and still clearing out pockets of Iraqi resistance.

Dressed in flowing robes trimmed with gold, the prince dropped to his knees in prayer moments after stepping from a Saudi Arabian C-130 military transport.

"Very, very happy indeed to be back home," the prince said, waving to well-wishers who clapped hands above their heads. He hugged Kuwaiti dignitaries waiting on the tarmac.

A government spokesman said virtually all 22 government ministers had returned to Kuwait, but no date has been announced for the arrival of Emir Jaber Al Sabah, the country's ruler.

Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, a senior cabinet minister, told reporters that security had to be ensured before the emir could return. "The place is not safe, the streets are not safe, there are so many munitions," he said.

Small numbers of Iraqi soldiers, probably trapped by the swift allied drive on the city, have

been rooted out in recent days. There also is some concern about clashes between Kuwaitis and members of the large Palestinian community.

"We hope of course that this will be the start of a new era to rebuild Kuwait," Abdul Rahman said shortly before the crown prince flew into Kuwait's international airport from Dhahran in northeastern Saudi Arabia.

The airport, taken over by allied forces, was closed to the public and Kuwaiti citizens were not informed of the prince's return for security reasons. The prince will make a public appearance at a later date, the minister said.

On hand to greet the returning Kuwaiti delegation were ambassadors or other diplomatic representatives of the United States, United Kingdom, Italy, France, Saudi Arabia and Canada.

U.S. Ambassador Edward W. Gnehm said he told the prince in Arabic: "Welcome home and a thousand congratulations." The prince in turn thanked the United States, U.S. President George Bush and the ambassador for helping to liberate Kuwait.

"He's the symbol of Kuwait

and that makes this a very important occasion," the ambassador said.

Abdul Rahman said he was uncertain where the crown prince would live since the emir's palace and many villas belonging to the royal family had been destroyed or badly damaged by Iraqi soldiers.

Kuwaiti authorities have stressed that the emir's absence nearly one week after the capital's liberation was neither unusual nor resented by the population.

None among the scores of residents interviewed in recent days have expressed dismay over the delay and there have been no public calls for the ouster of the ruling family, which suspended parliament in 1986.

Although power rested squarely in the hands of the royals, Kuwait was regarded as a relatively moderate state among the Gulf nations with no record of repression of political dissidents.

But many Kuwaitis, especially members of the underground, have called for greater democracy in their country and for the removal of some reportedly incomp-

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## New regional order explored Bush, Mitterrand plan summit; EC troika to start Mideast tour

Combined agency dispatches

PRESIDENT George Bush has started planning a series of meetings with fellow allied leaders as he weighs the challenge of securing peace in the postwar Middle East, a government official said Monday.

Bush already has invited French President Francois Mitterrand to a one-on-one meeting to discuss postwar policy in the Gulf, French Minister Roland Dumas said in Paris.

The White House acknowledged a Bush-Mitterrand summit is being considered, but spokesman Martin Fitzwater said it is not yet definite.

Sources in Paris said the summit would probably take place in mid-March in the Antilles, a Caribbean island chain that includes the French islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe.

An administration official, who asked not to be identified, said Bush is "looking at getting together with a number of the allies" in separate meetings.

Secretary of State James Baker Wednesday embarks on a post-war diplomatic mission to allied capitals in the Middle East as well as the Soviet Union.

U.S. officials said Sunday they can live with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein still in charge in Baghdad, but that Iraq can expect harsher peace terms if he does not surrender power.

Baker said that "as far as we know," Saddam is still in control in Iraq, despite unrest reported in Basra and other cities.

A team of European Commu-

ity foreign ministers will visit the Middle East this week for talks with regional leaders on prospects of building stability there after the Gulf war.

Diplomats said the Italian, Luxembourg and Dutch foreign ministers, representing the past, present and next holders of the EC's rotating presidency, would go to Damascus on Wednesday for talks which were first scheduled before the ground offensive brought the war to a swift close.

The EC team will meet their counterparts from Syria, Egypt and the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council.

On Thursday, Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos and a representative from the European Community will go to Amman for further discussions.

The so-called troika of three EC foreign ministers will visit Tel Aviv on Friday to meet Israeli leaders, and go on to Tripoli later the same day for talks with Libya and the North African Maghreb states.

Their visit will coincide with the Middle East tour by Baker, who will visit Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria and Israel beginning Wednesday.

"Mitterrand backs regional Gulf security plan"

Iran on Monday said that Mitterrand backed its view that Gulf security should be the exclusive responsibility of countries in the region.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said Mitterrand spelled out the French position Monday when he discussed the aftermath of the Gulf war by telephone with

President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

"Regional problems should be solved in the region and by countries lying there," IRNA quoted Rafsanjani as saying.

"Any plan to be dictated by outsiders is doomed to fail," IRNA, received in Cyprus, said Mitterrand agreed and had said paragraph 8 of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 formed a "good basis" for a Gulf security structure.

The paragraph asks U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar "to examine in consultation with Iran and Iraq and with other states of the region, measures to enhance the security and stability of the region."

U.S. briefs NATO allies

The United States briefed its NATO allies on the Gulf war military campaign and on plans to make the region secure and stable.

A military report by Assistant Secretary of Defence Henry Rowen and other Pentagon officials was "what a regular watcher of CNN (television network) would already have seen from Pentagon briefings," a NATO official said.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Raymond Seitz explained Washington's plans for "future political arrangements" in the Gulf to ambassadors from the alliance's other 15 members, a NATO press statement said.

It gave no details, but NATO sources said this included a description of Baker's aims in his trip to the region this week.

## Arafat fears for Palestinians in Kuwait; Saudis support cause

LONDON (R) — PLO leader Yasser Arafat has said he fears Palestinians may be massacred in Kuwait as they were in Lebanon's Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in 1982.

"Another Sabra-Shatila awaits the Palestinians in Kuwait... I place the entire responsibility for their fate on the West and the U.S. administration," said Arafat in an interview published on Monday in Britain's Guardian newspaper.

Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, was sympathetic towards Iraq during the conflict. Kuwaitis accuse some Palestinians of collaborating with Iraqi occupying forces in

Kuwait, and a wave of reprisals is feared.

Several hundred Palestinians in Beirut's Sabra and Shatila camps were killed by Israeli-backed Lebanese Christian militiamen in 1982 after Israel occupied parts of Beirut.

Arafat told the Guardian the Gulf war would be seen as "a stain on the history of the West."

"The Americans had taken a decision even before the Gulf crisis and that decision was to strike at Iraq... the aim was not to save Kuwait but to destroy Iraq," he said.

He denied the war had weakened the PLO. "Quite the reverse. It has shown that the

prime cause in the Middle East is the Palestinian one."

Britain's foreign office said it was studying seriously reports from Kuwait of reprisals against Palestinians suspected of collaborating with the Iraqi occupiers although it had no independent confirmation of the reports.

"We have urged the Kuwaiti authorities at a high level to ensure that law and order are restored and avoid a witch-hunt of suspected collaborators," a spokesman said.

Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, has said it would continue to support the Palestinian cause, but de-

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## Soviets bidding to help lead post-war search for peace

By Michael Putzel  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Soviet Union, promised a post-war role in Middle East diplomacy, is moving quickly to stake its claim before being left behind the countries in the coalition against Iraq.

Hours after U.S. President George Bush ordered a ceasefire in the Gulf war, Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander A. Bessmertnykh announced his government's intention to begin exploring a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The called it "the main source of instability, lack of trust and the continuing arms race in the region."

President Bush said Friday that the Soviets "have some good ideas" about how to achieve peace in the troubled region and that he would value their contribution. But he stopped short of offering the Kremlin a full partnership.

One analyst suggested the United States may be less anxious now than at the start of the war to give the Soviets a key role in forging the peace.

John Hannah, a Soviet affairs expert at the Washington Institute Near East Policy, said the overwhelming military victory gave the United States a credibility in the Arab World it has never enjoyed.

The Soviets, he said, have traditionally sided with the Arabs

against the United States and Israel, and the United States was viewed with great suspicion as Israel's patron.

With a more sympathetic Soviet foreign policy under former Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, Washington wanted a to draw Moscow into the peace process because that would "make it easier for the Arabs to go along," Mr. Hannah said.

But he added that the Soviets' unsuccessful efforts to broker a ceasefire to head off the ground war raised old suspicions that the Kremlin was trying to undercut U.S. policy to preserve its own standing with the Arab states.

Those suspicions can still be relieved, Mr. Hannah said, "But you may not need them (the Soviets) as much anymore."

At the end of January, two weeks into the air war against Iraq, Secretary of State James Baker and Mr. Bessmertnykh issued a statement at the close of talks in Washington expressing confidence the two superpowers could "make a substantial contribution to the achievement of a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East."

When Mr. Baker was asked later if that statement did not represent a departure from long-time U.S. efforts to keep the Soviets at arm's length from the Middle East peace process, he

said: "The old policy was wrong, and we changed it."

"It is our intention to have the Soviets involved in the Middle East," he said.

Mr. Bush, at his first news conference after the shooting stopped, said the Soviets "will be important players" in the search for peace in the Middle East. But he indicated he may want to confine their role to within the United Nations or some other limited framework.

He made clear the United States plans to take the leadership position, working with its coalition partners, with the United Nations and with individual countries in the region.

As for the Soviets, the president said, "We'll try very hard to work with them because they have some good ideas."

He told reporters he "never resented" President Mikhail Gorbachev's attempt to play independent, peacemaker, but added: "The trouble was it stopped well short of what we and the rest of the coalition could accept."

Nonetheless, Bush said he was pleased to have Soviet cooperation in the crisis rather than "what it would have been like a few years ago in the cold war when every American was absolutely convinced that the only thing the Soviets wanted (in the Middle East) was access to the warm water ports of the Gulf."

## Saddam prays for martyrs of war

BAGHDAD (R) — President Saddam Hussein, visited a national war memorial Sunday to pray for Iraq's dead — his first public appearance since the Gulf war ended.

Baghdad Radio said the president visited the martyr's monument where he prayed "to invoke the mercy of God on the souls of our righteous martyrs."

Iraq claims victory in the Gulf war which came to a halt on Thursday with the eviction of its troops from Kuwait and Baghdad's acceptance of all United Nations resolutions on its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. No figure has been announced for the Iraqi dead.

President Saddam chaired a meeting of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council on Sunday to discuss "political developments."

Iraqi Television released film of a smiling Saddam meeting with three aides to discuss restoring public services — his first televised appearance since early in the war.

Iraq announced Sunday it had accepted the latest U.N. Security Council resolution setting terms for a permanent ceasefire in the Gulf, including a release of all prisoners of war and detained Kuwaitis.

Western correspondents based outside Iraq have reported serious unrest by Muslim fundamentalists in the southern Iraqi city of Basra. Baghdad Radio made no mention of disturbances in Basra.

On Sunday night, Baghdad Radio started playing non-military songs for the first time since August. Love songs and folk music were replaced during the seven-month confrontation by military marches and patriotic songs, mainly praising President Saddam and Iraq's steadfastness.

Most Iraqis have not seen President Saddam since television went off the air about 10 days after the war started on Jan. 17. Electricity was restored to parts of the Iraqi capital on Sunday night and officials said the film was expected to be shown on television later.

## Chaos delays poll contested by Ozal's wife

ISTANBUL (R) — Fistfights and scuffles forced the postponement Monday of a ruling Motherland Party poll contested by Turkish President Turgut Ozal's wife.

Newspapers said Semra Ozal, seeking to launch her own political career as party leader in Istanbul, swore to fight on after a party meeting dissolved into chaos in the early hours.

Semra Ozal, whose husband dismissed the defence minister for opposing her bid to become Motherland provincial chairman, is running against conservative candidate Talat Yilmaz.

The chairman of the congress, Motherland Deputy and State Minister Mustafa Tasar, told 661 delegates and nearly 2,000 party members he was postponing the poll to an unspecified date, the liberal daily Milliyet said.

Quarrels among unruly delegates had turned into fistfights and scuffles, Milliyet said. "The party was taken over by non-party members. There was no security," Semra Ozal told Milliyet as she left the building. "Of course I will fight on."

Mr. Ozal last month fired his own cousin, Defence Minister Husnu Dogan, for opposing Semra's candidacy.

Three other ministers known to share Mr. Dogan's views have remained in the government.

Milliyet quoted Mr. Tasar as saying later the congress was likely to be reconvened on April 28.

## Red Cross, allies see no major problems in Gulf PoW swap

RIYADH (R) — The exchange of at least 63,000 Iraqi Gulf war prisoners (PoWs) for a handful of allied soldiers and airmen should not present insurmountable difficulties if all sides cooperate, allied and Red Cross officials said Monday.

Allied and Iraqi generals agreed at talks in southern Iraq on Sunday to an immediate release of prisoners taken during the six-week war.

A first group of 10 allied prisoners was handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Baghdad on Monday for delivery to their countries' embassies in Jordan.

A U.S. military spokesman in Riyadh said a total 38 U.S. personnel were listed as missing in action, of whom nine were known to have been taken prisoner.

A British spokesman said 12 British air crew were missing and three were believed to be prisoners of war. Kuwaiti and Italian fliers were also held.

Red Cross officials in Baghdad said the group released on Monday comprised six Americans — including the only woman soldier known to have been captured — three Britons and an Italian.

Arnold Luehdorf, head of the ICRC delegation in Saudi Arabia charged with supervising the prisoner exchange, said he did not expect the exchange to be too difficult.

"Logistical facilities are available," he told Reuters, noting that thousands of prisoners were exchanged following the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Means of transport and how long the exchange would take would have to be decided by countries involved, Mr. Luehdorf said.

"All parties meet to discuss the details. The time factor would be part of that framework. It depends on what governments want," he said.

He said Saudi and U.S. forces had been giving the ICRC "cap-

ture cards" with the names and other details of Iraqi prisoners of war. But prior to Monday's Baghdad release, the Red Cross had not received any names from the Iraqi government.

A Saudi military spokesman also said the exchange of prisoners of war should not be very complicated.

U.S. forces would help with logistical requirements of the exchange, a U.S. military source said.

U.S. forces spokesman Brigadier-General Richard Neal said on Sunday that the allies were holding some 63,400 Iraqi prisoners of war. More than 800 were receiving medical treatment, mostly for wounds.

Two Iraqi prisoners had died from malnutrition and dehydration, he said.

The allied side says some 40,000 Kuwaitis taken to Iraq during the Iraqi occupation of their country should also be treated as prisoners of war.

A U.S. military source said the total of Iraqi captured could be higher than 63,400 because allied forces were "still gathering people up."

Iraqi prisoners are being held in camps in Saudi Arabia, built before the war to house up to 100,000 prisoners, he said.

They were being given clothes and medical care, allied officials said.

"Somewhere in desperate condition. They were dehydrated, they hadn't had food in a long time. They were poorly clothed and lacked shoes. Some were too weak to walk. Others were healthy," the U.S. source said.

He said some Iraqi prisoners said they did not wish to return to Iraq. He could not say if this was because they opposed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, nor if they would be allowed to stay in Saudi Arabia.

Under the rules of war, ICRC officials say, prisoners should not be repatriated against their will.

## Israel cabinet to debate Palestinian issue before Baker visit

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, pressed by hawks in his government, has agreed to hold a political debate on the Palestinian conflict before a visit by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker next week.

Government officials said that three ministers were pressing Mr. Shamir to formally abandon the government's May 1989 "peace initiative."

The initiative, hammered out under the pressure of U.S. diplomacy and the Palestinian uprising, envisaged elections in the occupied territories leading to limited self-rule for Palestinians. It excluded territorial concessions.

The plan was considered all-but-dead last year when U.S. and Egyptian mediation failed to solve the perennial problem of who would speak for Palestinians in pre-election talks. Hardliners want to give the coup de grace before Mr. Baker gets a change to revive it.

"All opinions in the government must be presented... before it is decided what will be said to the secretary," an Israeli official, who declined to be identified, told Reuters. He said Mr. Shamir would convene a special cabinet meeting later this week.

Tension between backers of the 1989 plan, including Defence Minister Moshe Arens, and vociferous opponents such as Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, marked Sunday's weekly cabinet session.

Mr. Sharon, an influential former defence minister known for his hardline stance, called for the plan's cancellation.

"Israel should not only abandon this peace initiative, it should

demand demilitarisation of the Middle East as a pre-condition for peace talks," he was quoted as saying.

Mr. Sharon was supported by Energy Minister Yuval Neeman of the nationalist Tehiya Party and newly appointed Minister-without-portfolio Rehavam Zeevi, an ultra-rightist who wants all Palestinians out of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Neeman said "the plan should be scrapped because it was a compromise Mr. Shamir's Likud Party made before his coalition with dovish Labour collapsed last year."

The present government, formed by right-wing and ultra-religious parties, is the most hard-line government in Israel's history.

"It's outdated today... when the Arabs of (the West Bank) and the Gaza Strip mentioned in the programme already voted with their dances on the rooftops when missiles struck Tel Aviv," Mr. Neeman said after the cabinet meeting.

After weeks of predicting post-war U.S. pressure over the Palestinian issue, Israel is expected to see the first evidence when Mr. Baker tours the Middle East. Israeli Radio said he was expected in Israel next Monday.

Appearing on NBC television's "Meet the Press," Mr. Baker said all parties should capitalise on chances for peace that may have been improved by Iraq's defeat.

"We have got to find a way for Arab states and Israel to make peace. And we have got to find a way for Israel and Palestinians to begin a dialogue..." Mr. Baker said.

## Text of Iraqi acceptance of Security Council resolution

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Following is a letter from Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz to the president of the U.N. Security Council, Peter Hohenfeller of Austria, and U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

It accepts the council's Saturday night Resolution 686 backing American terms for a permanent ceasefire:

"I have the honour to inform you that the Iraqi government has taken note of the text of Security Council Resolution 686 (1991) and that it has agreed to fulfil its obligations under the said resolution. We hope that the council, in its turn, will interact in an objective and honourable manner, pursuant to the provisions of international law and the principles of equity and justice, with our faithful and — to the extent that we are able — speedy fulfilment of those obligations."

"You and the members of the Security Council are well aware of the manner in which the American forces and their partners in the military operations against Iraq have implemented Security Council Resolution 678 (1990), and of the major losses which Iraq has suffered to its infrastructure, economic, civilian cultural and religious property, basic public services such as electricity, water, telephones, transport, fuel and other essential requirements of everyday life."

"Despite these facts, Resolution 686 (1991) has ignored the Iraqi people's suffering and the imposition on Iraq alone of a long series of obligations. A number of members of the Security Council referred to this fact, leading

one of them (Cuba) to vote against the resolution while three states — India, Yemen and China, the latter being a permanent member of the council — abstained."

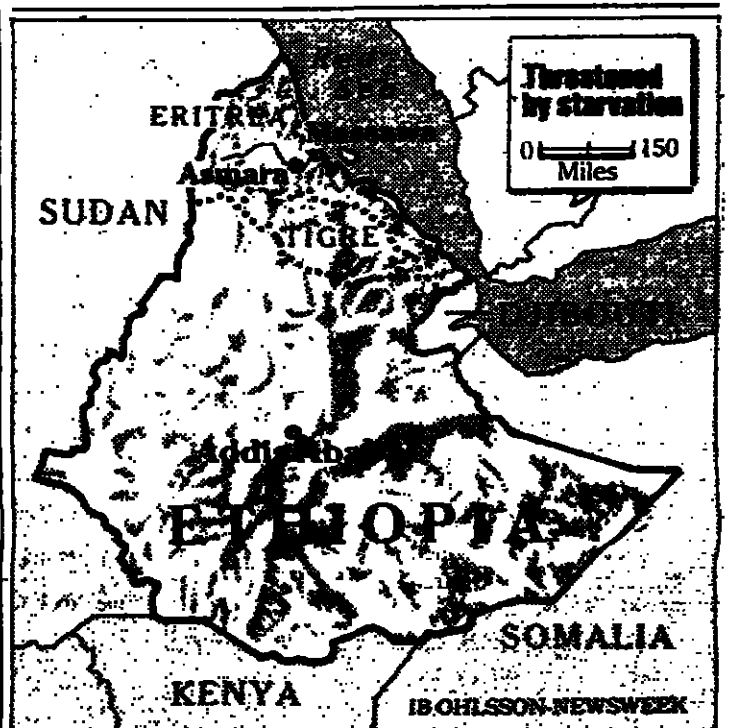
"We record these facts for history and for the attention of those members of the Security Council and the international organisation — and those elements of international public opinion — who have a conscience. Our agreement to fulfil our obligations under this resolution stems from our determination to refute the pretexts which some may employ in order to persist in their aggression against Iraq and to inflict further harm on its people."

"Iraq hopes that the Security Council will ensure the adoption of a resolution proclaiming an official ceasefire and the cessation of all military operations on land, at sea and in the air, as well as the immediate withdrawal of the foreign military forces stationed without any justification in various regions of Iraq."

"Iraq also hopes that the Security Council will proceed to declare, with all possible speed, the bases for its adoption of Security Council Resolution 661 (1990), 665 (1990) and 670 (1990) as having elapsed, with the result that the resolutions become null and void."

"Accept, sir, the assurances of my highest consideration."

The resolutions referred to in the text are: 678 authorising force against Iraq, 661 imposing trade sanctions and 665 and 670 and extending and enforcing these sanctions with a navy and air blockade.



## Rebels claim control of northwestern Ethiopia

NAIROBI (AP) — Ethiopian communist rebels Sunday claimed to have won control of Gojam province in the northwest after 10 days of fighting.

In a broadcast over clandestine rebel radio, the Tigre Insurgents said their "operation to completely annihilate the barbaric government soldiers in Gojam region" was completed Saturday.

"Gojam has achieved its independence for the first time in its history," said the broadcast, monitored in Nairobi.

The rebels said they now were working "to create stability in the whole of Gojam in order to ensure security and enable public and government institutions to resume their operations."

The Tigre People's Liberation Front (TPLF) rebels took up arms in 1975 to overthrow the government of President Mengistu Haile Mariam and install a strict communist government. They renewed their offensive Feb. 23 after a nearly year-long lull.

In the last week they claimed to have seized the government garrison town of Bahar Dar on Lake Tana and Debre Markos. Gojam's provincial capital (205 kilometres) northwest of Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa.

The government claims the rebels are trying to close the main northern highways, which include the capital's link, with the vital Red Sea port of Assab. The port handles 70 per cent of the nation's foreign trade and houses its only fuel refinery.

The loss of access to Assab would be a heavy blow to Ethiopia, already crippled by a severe fuel shortage.

However, Western diplomats and relief workers in Addis Ababa said there had been no rebel activity on the highway to Assab and that traffic was continuing normally.

The road northwest into Gojam province, however, has been closed since the rebel offensive began.

The government did not immediately comment on the rebels' claim.

However, a Western diplomat in the capital said he believed the claim was probably true.

"They may overstate their military developments, but when they say a place is liberated, it usually is," said the diplomat speaking on condition of anonymity. "Clearly if they say they've liberated it they've probably defeated any significant military threat."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR			
<b>CHURCHES</b> St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swaidah Tel. 810740. Antiochian of God Church, Tel. 632785, 685326. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440. De la Salle Church Tel. 661757. Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366. Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62541. Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543. Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331. Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772681. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Amman International Church Tel. 685326. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.			
<b>WEATHER</b> Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. A cold air mass will affect the Kingdom. Thus temperatures will drop, clouds will increase and rain will fall. Winds will be southerly moderate to fresh, with strong gusts at times. In Aqaba, winds will be southerly fresh and seas rough.			
<b>USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS</b> <b>NIGHT DUTY</b> AMMAN: Dr. Mohamed Abbadi ..... 778959 Dr. Adel Ammani ..... 812148 Dr. Yehia Abdul Rahim ..... 786072 Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayem ..... 620115 Firas pharmacy ..... 661912 Al Asma pharmacy ..... 783236 Nairoudi pharmacy ..... 637025 Nairoudi pharmacy ..... 623672 Al Salam pharmacy ..... 626730 Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945 Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637660			
<b>EMERGENCIES</b> Food Control Centre ..... 637111 Civil Defence Department ..... 661111 Civil Defence Immediate ..... 630941 Rescue ..... 630941 Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199 Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777 Fire Brigade ..... 891228			
<b>Blood Bank</b> ..... 775121 <b>Highway Police</b> ..... 843402 <b>Traffic Police</b> ..... 893590 <b>Public Security Department</b> ..... 60321 <b>Hotel Complaints</b> ..... 605800 <b>Price Complaints</b> ..... 661176 <b>Water and Sewerage</b> ..... 897467 <b>Amman Municipality</b> ..... 787111 <b>Complaints</b> ..... 787111 <b>Telephone Information</b> (directory assistance) ..... 121 <b>Overseas Calls</b> ..... 010230 <b>Central Amman Telephone</b> ..... 623101 <b>Repairs</b> ..... 664714 <b>Abdali Telephone Repairs</b> ..... 661101 <b>Jordan Television</b> ..... 773111 <b>Radio Jordan</b> ..... 774111 <b>Water Authority</b> ..... 680100			
<b>Jordan Electricity Authority</b> ..... 815615 <b>Electric Power</b> ..... 636381 <b>RJ Flight Information</b> ..... 08-53200 <b>Queen Alia Int'l. Airport</b> ..... 08-53200			
<b>HOSPITALS</b> AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/232 Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn ..... 64281/6 Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn ..... 64241/2 Jabel Amman Maternity ..... 642362 Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140 Palastine, Shmeisani ..... 664714 Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131 University Hospital ..... 845845 Al-Muasher Hospital ..... 667227/9 The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666127/37			
<b>MARKET PRICES</b> Uppeflower price in fts per kg. Apple ..... 530 / 480 Banana ..... 300 / 450 Banana (Mukhammar) ..... 450 / 400 Beans ..... 580 / 520 Cabbage ..... 100 / 60 Carrot ..... 200 / 150 Cauliflower ..... 220 / 180 Cucumbers (large) ..... 150 / 100 Cucumbers (small) ..... 300 / 250 Dates ..... 500 / 400 Eggplant ..... 180 / 120 Garlic ..... 130 / 140 Grapefruit ..... 1400 / 1300 Lemon ..... 200 / 150 Marrow (large) ..... 200 / 150 Marrow (small) ..... 320 / 260 Onion (dry) ..... 280 / 220 Onion (green) ..... 180 / 140 Orange ..... 600 / 500 Pepper (hot) ..... 540 / 350 Pepper (sweet) ..... 400 / 350 Potato ..... 200 / 150 Radish ..... 100 / 50 Sage ..... 400 / 350 Spinach ..... 100 / 50 Tomatoes ..... 170 / 120			



## Muslim Brotherhood solidifies resistance to peace with Israel

By Nermeen Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood Movement has reiterated its rejection of any peaceful solutions to the Arab-Israeli conflict which is based on the recognition of Israel and giving up parts of Palestine to the Jewish state.

"Islam bans us from giving any part of our Islamic lands away," Sheikh Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khalifa, the leader of the movement in Jordan told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview.

However, the spiritual leader hedged a question on whether the brotherhood would reject such a solution if it was actually arrived at.

"Let us see how they will solve the Palestinian problem first," Khalifa replied.

A statement published by the Brotherhood Movement in Jordan Monday said that "winds of surrender solutions after the Gulf war will be gripping the region and foremost among these solutions is the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338."

"Those resolutions mean giving up 70 per cent of Palestinian lands and negotiating over the rest leading up to self rule in those areas," the statement said.

"The nation has to stand fast against such a plot and resist it with all its might," the statement stressed.

Khalifa said that the basic foundation adopted by the brotherhood is that "it is impossible to give up any part of Palestine."

However, Khalifa said, "when we hear, listen and are sure of what these solutions are we will give our opinion on them."

The statement came at the heels of strong popular dismay over the results of the Gulf war placing blame on radical political movements which failed to extend practical aid to Iraq during the war. Many felt that statement calling for jihad and continued struggle, by Islamic and other political parties, amounted to vocal applaud and no concrete actions.

"What happened in the Gulf, regardless of the way it has concluded, has to be seen

as the beginning of a long bloody struggle between this nation and its enemies," the statement said.

"We have to adopt a comprehensive jihad policy to liberate all the land of Palestine from the grips of the Jews," the statement added.

In the Friday sermon aired on television, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ibrahim Zaid Keilani also painted Iraq's military defeat in the Gulf war as another test of Muslim's will to fight for their holy places and an example to be learnt from and heeded.

"What took place in the Gulf is not bad but rather a good development in that it revealed the collaborators in the region," the Muslim Brotherhood Movement statement said.

The brotherhood's position on the Palestinian problem has always rejected recognition of Israel and any solutions which will allow for an accommodation with the Jewish state. It is in direct contrast with the Palestine Liberation Organisation's declared position which recognises Israel and calls for the implementation of the two U.N. resolutions and self-determination for Palestinians.

The statement, which was issued at the same time as another by the Muslim Brotherhood Movement's deputies at the Lower House of Parliament, warned of plans to redraw the map of the region and called on the Islamic Nation to "return to Islam as an ideology, sharia as a way of life and refuse any rule or law which rejects Islam."

The statement of the movement's deputies also followed the same line of analysis of the Gulf war calling for concentrated efforts to support Iraq and its reconstruction.

However their statement which also rejected "American and foreign attempts at imposing their hegemony over the region" did not refer to the U.N. resolutions directly.

"We have to continue to support our path and struggle through training, arm" the people and set our hearts on jihad in preparation for our war with the Jews which will require all our efforts and resources," the deputies said in their statement.

## University students, teachers show firm support for Iraq

By Nur Sati  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A truck load of about 20 tonnes of essential food stuffs and medical supplies headed for Iraq Monday. The truck load was organised by a coordination committee composed of 600 students, at the University of Jordan, including faculty members and teachers.

The truck, which left for Iraq early Monday, was filled with milk, grain flour, canned food and other basic necessities worth JD 10,000.

According to Mustafah Hamarneh, a member of the committee, "the group was formed at the beginning of the Gulf war to support Iraq through collecting donations from the university campus and outside."

"We had collection tables every morning manned by students in various faculties. Every day each student would bring an item to donate to Iraq," Hamarneh told the Jordan Times.

To collect donations outside the campus, the students went around the country. "Some people gave money as donations to Iraq," Hamarneh said, adding that, "we took the money to the engineers' complex and they bought medical supplies that are needed in Iraq."

"Unprecedented was the word

used to describe the effort that was put into forming the committee. It was the first time that students, professors and staff worked together as equals," Hamarneh said. "It destroyed the barrier between teachers and students and enabled a relationship to be formed."

Nawal Fayed (student) said: "There was a need to help Iraq and we all joined together in this."

Nadia, a student and a member of the committee said, "the committee was formed to help Iraq, but on the other hand it was successful for us, because students and teachers worked together for a common cause."

"What we felt strongly during our work on the committee was the unity of purpose of the Jordanian people," Nasser Hreini, a student member of the committee said. Another student, Khaled Lawzi agreed: "It formed a connection between students and teachers in the quest to help the Iraqi people."

Aside from the donations collected through the students, many events also took place at the university to collect money.

According to Nadia, a festival with patriotic songs brought in around JD 1,000. Another event was a basketball match whereby each person could either buy a ticket or donate a carton of milk instead. Some people did both.

Since the end of the war, the committee has not disbanded.

"We want to continue to help Iraq. Our recent mission was very successful and we are thinking of sending a delegation to Baghdad," Mohammad Jarrah, a team member said. The delegation would consist of staff and students specialised in engineering and other fields, who would devote their time to helping with reconstruction work in Baghdad, he explained.

"No matter how much we give, it will never be sufficient because Iraq has given and sacrificed everything in its stand in the war," Nadia said. "Iraq stood up to the onslaught and what is needed is more than just a few donations."

Students who overheard her nodded in agreement and said that what had been achieved by the committee was "great" but that more was required.

"In the near future we will be thinking what we, as a committee, can best do for the Iraqi cause and for our university," Nadia affirmed.

The first objective the students have in mind is to expand the base of support for the committee. "We should gain more popular support, reach out to the people, explain our mission and try to convince them," explained Nadia.

## Jordan Cooperative Organisation encourages livestock projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) has reached an agreement with a society of sheep breeders in the Karak Governorate on implementing a sheep-fattening project with a view of supplying the local market with lean meat for which there is great demand.

Under the agreement, JCO will provide animal feed, veterinary medicine and full technical supervision during the sheep-fattening process which is to be carried out by the society over a period of 70 days before handing the sheep to the JCO.

A JCO official said that the agreement was designed to increase the amount of lean meat produced for local consumption. The door is wide open for all cattle and sheep breeders to reach agreements with the JCO and to cooperate in a similar manner and benefit from the

facilities available at the JCO stations, he said.

The JCO earlier signed a series of agreements with groups of stock breeders in the Tafleeh Governorate allowing them to benefit from the JCO stations to fatten sheep in addition to other agreements with stock breeders in the Amman and Zarqa regions to benefit from JCO stations in Azraq.

According to the official, the JCO has established five stations to help fatten sheep, located at Ramtha, Mafraq, Karak, Azraq and Tafleeh.

These stations, he said, provide modern enclosures for animals each accommodating some 17,500 heads per cycle, along with warehouses for animal feed adjoining a unit for providing medication to the sheep and selling veterinary medicine under the supervision of specialists working for the organisations.

## Parliament focuses on central problem of Palestine, voices continued support for Iraqis

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Palestine problem remains the central issue for Arab and Islamic nations; and the "Jewish" entity in Palestine remains a source of concern to the whole Middle East region and is the root cause of all regional problems, according to a statement issued by the Lower House of Parliament.

Providing support for the Palestinian people to help uproot the "alien entity" now occupying the holy places in Palestine, backing the Palestinian uprising, urging Arab and Islamic countries to continue their supply of the popular struggle, enlisting the support of the world community in support of the Palestinian people's rights and uplifting injustices and ending Palestinian suffering will remain the priorities for Jordan's parliament, said the statement issued by the Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee.

The statement said that the Lower House would continue its efforts to confront the "imperialist aggressive" onslaught in its political, economic and military forms and would oppose any enemy attempts to subject the Middle East to Western plans imposing hegemony, seeding divisions and tinge on the Arabs.

Parliament supports an integrated Arab-Islamic system which can guarantee equitable distribution of the Arab Nation's wealth and which can help the Arabs reconstruct their intrinsic force and build up their economic and military power, the statement noted.

Parliament also expressed its continued support for Iraq in its confrontation with the U.S. Zionist plots, and backed the people, leadership and armed forces of Iraq in their struggle to protect and safeguard the Arab identity and its culture, said the statement which was read out by the committee chairman Dr. Ahmad Innab.

The statement said that Jordan was willing to take an active part in the reconstruction of Iraq in the aftermath of the devastating war which was waged on that

country by the United States and its allies.

Parliament stressed its total opposition to the presence of foreign troops in Arab lands and emphasised that it would pursue efforts to mobilise the Arab masses and foster the spirit of holy war and martyrdom, said the statement.

The statement expressed Parliament's deep conviction that the aggression on Iraq marked the beginning of a long and hard struggle between the Arabs and Muslims on one hand and the US — Atlantic Zionist alliance on the other.

It said that the war on Iraq was clearly aimed at imposing hegemony by foreign nations on the Arabs, and subjugating the Arabs to the U.S.-Zionist will.

The statement voiced deep appreciation to those Arab and Islamic countries which lent support to Iraq and lauded the Jordanian people's endeavours in providing help to their Iraqi brothers facing aggression.

## Pharmaceutical industries earn \$60m from exports

AMMAN (J.T.) — Last year Jordan exported \$60 million worth of pharmaceuticals to Arab and other countries. This amount formed nearly 70 per cent of the total production by the country's five pharmaceutical companies, according to Mohammad Fitani, Director General of Dar Al Dawaa pharmaceutical company.

Fitani said the Jordanian pharmaceutical industries together produced nearly 250 types of pills ranging from pain killers to antibiotics, along with a varied assortment of vitamins, eye and nose drops and ointments of all kinds.

In addition, these industries produced medicinal capsules and syringes for various clinical needs, he noted.

According to Fitani, the pharmaceutical industries rank fourth among the various Jordanian industries which export products.

The other main industries are fertilisers, phosphates, agricultural and chemicals.

Jordan is considered the first Arab country in terms of pharmaceutical production and export due to the high-quality products which are reaching Arab and foreign nations.

In addition to the five pharmaceutical plants, Jordan has established three plants to manufacture veterinary medicine and two others to produce complementary materials for various chemical and pharmaceutical products, Fitani pointed out.

Laboratories operated by the Health Ministry have been conducting a series of tests on the types of Jordanian pharmaceutical products and have proved them to be in full harmony with pharmaceutical industrial standards, enabling them to compete very

strongly with products from advanced nations, Fitani added.

Fitani lauded the government's efforts to encourage the public and the local hospitals and physicians to use more local pharmaceutical products which he said now cover nearly 40 per cent of the country's total needs.

The government has been most helpful to these industries by exempting raw materials from all forms of customs duty and giving them the privilege to operate without having to pay income tax for the initial production years, Fitani noted.

He said Jordanian pharmaceutical industries were now studying the possibility of producing raw materials for their products and that such studies were among 50 working papers submitted to world conferences in which these industries participated.

## Zaben, mayors review needs of 8 municipalities

AMMAN (J.T.) — Heads of eight municipalities, mainly those in the southern parts of the country, Monday met Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Minister Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben and discussed with him loans to their towns, town planning issues and municipal services, among other topics.

The mayors of Um Al Basatin, Tafleeh, Ghor Mazrah, Ghor Safi, Malhi, Ader, Madaba and Maan, also discussed the appropriation of land for municipal projects and cleanliness campaigns in their regions, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Petra said that several decisions were taken concerning the loans but that a study of each municipality's financial situation

would precede the granting of loans to these towns.

The mayors and the minister discussed topics related to road maintenance and public works projects in their regions.

According to the agency, a decision was also taken to deal with shortages in electricity supply to remote areas, and allocations were made for asphalted roads.

It said that Tafleeh municipality would be granted a JD 60,000 loan to purchase equipment for cleanliness campaigns, while Malhi municipality would receive JD 30,000 for road asphalted schemes and Madaba municipality would obtain a JD 300,000 loan to establish a garbage dump site.

## Agriculture minister proposes comprehensive dialogue with farmers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Al Alawneh Monday took part in a meeting of the Lower House of Parliament's Agricultural Committee which discussed the country's agricultural policies.

A statement at the end of the meeting said that a decision was taken to call all those concerned with agricultural production to meet and discuss the question of import-export issues.

The Ministry of Agriculture has recently agreed to allow farmers to acquire state-owned land on lease for development to produce cereals which are in great demand in the country.

But according to a recent statement in the local press, Alawneh has reversed the decision due to what he said was delay in the rainfall this year which was bound to have adverse effects on cereal production plans.

Alawneh was quoted as saying

that with the exception of a limited area of land in the Jordan Valley, no farmers would be offered land on lease for cereal production for the time being.

The government's decision to offer state-owned land on lease was taken last November, and the announcement said that land developers would be required to pay a nominal fee of 100 fils a dunum annually in return for their use of the land.

The minister said that as an initial plan, 30,000 dunums of land in the Jordan Valley would be grown with cereals, a project that would increase the country's output by nearly 11,000 tonnes.

According to the ministry's Secretary-General Sami Samara the government has adopted a policy of buying locally produced wheat at JD 147 a tonne and barley at JD 105 tonne; higher than the international rates in order to encourage production.

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — While most international air carriers have not yet announced when they will resume their suspended services to Middle Eastern destinations, Air France will resume its two flights a week to Jordan as of April 3, airline officials told the Jordan Times Monday.

"Flights from Paris to Larnaca and Cairo are no longer being cancelled and we expect Paris-Amman flights to resume April 3," said an Air France official here.

Because of the increased "risk factor" in a war zone, which affected most Middle Eastern countries, and the increased passenger surcharge — a premium of up to \$250 per passenger, almost all international airlines decided to suspend their flights to the Middle East from last November.

Some airlines suspended their flights in November but others waited until two days before the U.N. deadline (Jan. 15) for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait to freeze their Middle East-bound flights.

Jordan's national carrier, Royal Jordanian, had to house a major part of its fleet in Vienna because the airline could not afford to pay the insurance premiums.

Of the Eastern European airlines which did not stop their Jordan-bound flights, the Soviet airline, Aeroflot, continued its one flight a week throughout the 42 day war period.

International carriers such as Lufthansa, KLM, Singapore Airlines, Swiss-Air and Alitalia, all of whom had regular flights to Jordan, have said they are still uncertain as to when regular flights would be resumed.

Some smaller airlines, however, have already announced the resumption of their regular flights.

"Cyprus Airways will resume its regular flights to Jordan as of March 17," said an official of the Cypriot Airline in Amman.

Airline officials, while cautious about setting a date, believe that normal flight schedules will be resumed within 4 to 6 weeks.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Committee organises march next week

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Emergency Health Committee will organise a march in Amman on March 15 under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Alia with the proceeds going to the victims of the Gulf war. The organisers said that the march would begin at the Professional Association complex and end at the Royal Automobile Club and would involve school students and their parents in the Amman area. The committee, which was formed by the Arab Doctors' Union, said that the proceeds would buy medicines and medical equipment for the Iraqi people. A committee spokesman said Monday that a sum of JD 2,056 was received Monday as a donation from Royal Jordanian employees as assistance to the Iraqi people.

#### Cabinet amends purchase regulation

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has decided to cancel two articles from a government rule on the purchase of furniture and vehicles for government departments. The two articles banned the purchase of these commodities without prior approval from the Council of Ministers if the total sum to be spent on them exceeded JD 50,000.

#### Deputies urge Kuwait to protect Jordanians

AMMAN (Petra) — The Palestine and Occupied Arab Territories Committee at the Lower House of Parliament Monday issued a call to the government of Kuwait urging it to take measures aimed at providing safety to Jordanians and Palestinians living in Kuwait. It said that the Jordanian and Palestinian minorities have been the target of irresponsible actions by certain groups, a practice which was bound to cause further splits in Arab ranks.

#### Aqaba-Nuweibeh traffic may rise

AQABA (J.T.) — A total of 30,240 passengers and 1,436 vehicles crossed from Aqaba to Nuweibeh in Sinai aboard ferries owned by the Arab Maritime Bridge Company, according to a statistical bulletin by the port authorities here. They said that nearly 3,000 passengers and 230 cars made use of the ferries on a daily basis. The route is jointly owned by Jordan, Egypt and Iraq. Port officials expect the daily number of passengers to rise to 6,000 during the coming month in view of the advent of the holy month of Ramadan which is expected to start by mid-March.

#### Bazaar to help Iraq opens

ZARQA (Petra) — A week-long charity bazaar was opened Monday at the Professional Associations Complex in Zarqa. The bazaar, the proceeds of which will benefit the Iraqi people, includes clothes, foodstuff and home appliances. The opening ceremony was attended by the Iraqi ambassador's wife and several officials.

#### IDB extends JD 1m loans

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) has approved loans totalling JD 1.014 million for a number of industrial and medical services schemes. These loans will finance the production of cables and wires, an olive oil press, a marble works, a knitting factory, among others.

## Private group appeals for protection of human rights in Kuwait after war

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of 19 non-governmental organisations operating in Amman Monday issued an appeal for the protection of human rights of vulnerable non-Kuwaitis in post-war Kuwait.

The appeal, addressed to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, urged the United Nations Organisation and all U.N. member governments, especially the government of Kuwait to ensure the security and protection of basic human rights of non-Kuwait residents after the war.

"This vulnerable group of people living in Kuwait includes, among others, Palestinians, Jordanians, Iraqis, Sri Lankans, Filipinos, Yemenis and Sudanese," said the appeal, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times.

The appeal said: "We support the Kuwaiti government's declared commitment to guarantee full human and civil rights for all residents of the post-war Kuwait, and also the humanitarian responsibility of the International

Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in conformity with the international law."

Appeals to the Kuwaiti government in this concern were issued by the Lower House of Parliament and through calls in the Jordanian media.

At least 170,000 Palestinians are still living in Kuwait, and Kuwaiti leaders had given assurance about their safety after the war, according to Fateh, the mainstream faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Fateh spokesman and representative in the Gulf region Salim Zaounon told a press conference here Saturday that the Palestinians were among those minorities who refrained from taking sides in the war about nonetheless suffered huge property losses.

Zaounon said at least 50 Palestinians were killed and 100 others injured in the hostilities which took place after the Aug. 2 takeover.

He estimated the Palestinian community's losses in fixed and liquid assets at \$12 billion.

**Under the patronage of  
Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein  
Together ... with the Iraqi people along the  
MARCH TO VICTORY**



How to participate in the Victory March

- ★ A special form from the Arab Emergency Health Committee at the Jordanian Medical Association should be completed
- ★ A marcher should raise contributions from sponsors to cover his participation in the march
- ★ Completed forms should be handed to the committee which issues free T-shirts bearing the committee's logo
- ★ The filled forms should be delivered to the committee at least three days before the march date
- ★ The march will take off at the Professional Association Complex in Amman on March 15 at 9 a.m. and will proceed towards the Royal Automobile Club where the marchers can get refreshments

For more information call tel: 665620, 666161

## Phone calls from Kuwait reach Jordan

AMMAN (R) — Jordanians in Kuwait, cut off from their families for more than seven months because of the Gulf crisis, have begun telephoning relatives in Amman, the head of the Telecommunications Corporation said Monday.

"For the past two days, people here have been getting phone calls from their relatives in Kuwait through the exchange of a third party..." Mr. Mohammad Shaded Ismail told Reuters.

"We are now inquiring when Jordanians could start phoning Kuwait from here, but that all depends on how swiftly Kuwait is able to restore its telecommunications network," he added.



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## No to kangaroo justice

THERE ARE persistent reports emanating from Kuwait that the Palestinian residents of that country are in eminent danger. It appears that the Kuwaitis are bent on venting their anger at the Iraqi regime through taking it out on their Palestinian brothers for allegedly aiding and abetting the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. There is nothing worse than making the Palestinians once again the scape goats for the deeds of others. If the Palestinians end up being lynched by mobs in front of the very eyes of the Kuwaiti government and get persecuted collectively on the basis of guilt by association, then we are in for another Sabra and Shatila. This is not to suggest that any wrongdoing by residents of Kuwait, be they Palestinians or otherwise, may not be prosecuted in courts of law. But what should not be condoned or accepted ever is any attempt to carry out "kangaroo trials" of innocent Palestinians by Kuwaiti mobs roaming the streets in these difficult times.

Let Kuwait and Kuwaitis forget, the Palestinian residents of Kuwait have not merely been wage earners; they also contributed effectively to the country's development and prosperity throughout the past four decades. Many thousands of them were born in the country and spent most if not all of their formative and productive years in it. For most of them, Kuwait is the only country that they know and have, even though they never enjoyed full civic or political rights there. There is enough Arab blood that was shed already in the Gulf war.

There must not be any more fratricide or retributions against a people who have suffered endlessly at the hands of the Israelis and their foreign backers. The government of Kuwait is therefore called upon to act expeditiously to prevent any act that may mar the joy of liberation. A clear message to the Kuwaiti people must be sent immediately to the effect that revenge against any Palestinian will not be tolerated and that whoever perpetrates such crimes will be brought to justice and punished.

The Arab League likewise must also act in the face of such ominous developments in Kuwait. The experiences of Lebanon must not be repeated.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

James Baker's coming tour of the Middle East will be a real test for the U.S. administration's intentions and its claims that it is concerned to implement international legality and safeguard world peace and stability, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. Baker's visit has been described as a move to pave the ground for the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine problem which had been festering at the U.N. organisation for more than four decades, the paper noted. It said that any solution to the Middle East question should be based totally on the international legality and founded on the principles of U.N. Security Council resolutions. Other than this will be totally unacceptable to the Arabs because the alternative is a U.S.-Zionist solution which can do no means safeguard Palestinian people's interest, the paper added. In order to settle the Kuwait issue, the United States was quick to force the Security Council to issue a series of resolutions, and was quick to send its war machine to the Gulf to see that those resolutions were implemented, the paper pointed out. In order to evict Iraqi troops from Kuwait, the United States and its allies brought destruction to Iraqi cities, killing thousands of innocent civilians and devastating Iraq's economic infrastructure, the paper said. The Arabs who have been waiting for the Security Council resolutions to be implemented for many years, added the paper, can wait a bit longer now to see if the international legality is to be applied, and whether the United States would be able to force Israel to abide by the resolutions.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday welcomes statements by a number of Kuwaiti officials who gave assurances about the well-being and safety of the Jordanian-Palestinian community in Kuwait, but he says words are not enough. Mahmoud Rimawi notes that contrary to what the officials say, the Jordanians and Palestinians are suffering at the hand of Kuwaiti groups who have reportedly carried out acts of intimidation or persecution against the Jordanian or Palestinian families that have been living in Kuwait for many years and helping to build modern Kuwait. The writer says that the Jordanian-Palestinian community had suffered most during the Gulf crisis, because its numbers had remained in the country protecting its interests and taking charge of institutions that had been abandoned by its owners. Many of the Jordanians and Palestinians living in Kuwait have been living there since the mid-thirties, and it was they who took the pioneering job of constructing the country with their minds and their hands; Rimawi continues. There have been reports about Kuwait's intention of getting rid of the non-Kuwaiti nationals to pave the ground for the importation of workers from foreign countries, and those the most likely to be evicted are the Jordanians and Palestinians, the writer adds. Should this be the case, Rimawi says, the Jordanian Palestinian community deserves to be told so, and its interests preserved while they are evicted in an orderly manner. But, he adds, if this is not the case, the Jordanians and Palestinians need to hear a crystal-clear pledge from the Kuwaiti government about their safety and well-being.

## The View from Fourth Circle

# Seven decades, seven months and six wars

By Rami G. Khouri

THE relatively swift military defeat of the Iraqi army in the ground battle that never happened has shocked many people throughout the Arab World into momentary disbelief, concern and introspection. The moment calls for something politically more accurate, intellectually more honest, and historically more compelling. This is precisely the moment when we should be aware of the full reality on the ground throughout the region, and avoid the narrow geographic and political vision through which the cash register-coalition has viewed this conflict since its inception last year.

Despite the good news bulletins from the Iraqi side of the warfront and the many local tales of wonder we heard about thousands of dead, wounded or captured coalition troops, the military battle was no battle at all once the coalition achieved air superiority. The Iraqi troops were pounded on the ground for over a month, and the ground battle was no battle to speak of. It is irrelevant now to remember that we urged Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait and to resolve bilateral or regional problems through negotiations, as we urged the cash-register coalition to refrain from military force and heavy-handed political ultimatums as a means of conflict-resolution. Why Iraq allowed the crisis to culminate in a battle it could not win, and why the cash-register coalition insisted from the start on a massive show of military force and an uncompromising political posture which guaranteed the need to use that force, will be for history to answer in due course. However, the scale and speed of the Iraqi defeat should not blind us to the deeper political and human reality which still characterises the Middle East.

This is a moment of flag-waving and celebration for the cash-register coalition, who will spend several weeks or months reveling in what they see as a rare noble combination of moral authority, political resolve and military prowess. A narrow focus does that to people, so we will have to put up with it for a while. Some time this spring or summer, however, the cash register-coalition will have to ask itself: was the destruction of Iraq and Kuwait worth it? Could this dispute and the broader regional problems that fuelled it have been resolved without a war and without spending the approximately \$200 billion that shall have been the total cost of the confrontation, the war and the reconstruction of Kuwait and Iraq? What is the impact of the war on the rest of the region and its various problems? What has been asserted other than the tremendous American technological and political capacity to destroy Third World societies and kill people whose skin colour, from the western perspective, is slightly dark and whose political aspirations are slightly suspect?

With this end, the military fight will now be seen to have been only an interlude of madness, a frenzied pause that can only be fully evaluated historically in terms of its possible impact on the aspirations of the people of the region for a life of justice, dignity and stability. The question repeats itself: was it worth it? Did it achieve anything? Could the same achievements have been

gained through non-violent means?

We now see the cash register coalition members squabbling over the big bills and contracts, while the south of Iraq is offered to the world as a military raffle prize. In the meantime, Israel continues to jail thoughtful and moderate Palestinians who can challenge it to make peace, while it attacks other Palestinians in Lebanon and enlarges its government with politicians who preach expelling the Palestinians out of their ancestral homeland.

In other words, the political and human reality of the Middle East region has started to reassert itself, only days after the fighting ended — and this is the same reality which saw the overwhelming majority of the people of the Arab World stand by Iraq in its confrontation with the cash-register coalition. The sentiments of anger, frustration, despair and hope for a better future which drove Arabs and Muslims to oppose American-led neo-colonial adventures in the region have paused for only a brief moment — partly because of shock at the sudden end of the war, partly to assess political assets/liabilities, and partly to await the international and Arab political follow-up to the seven-month long confrontation in the Gulf.

The confrontation escalated and ultimately resulted in war because the vast majority of Arab people were unsatisfied with their political, economic and national reality, and were willing to risk the madness of confrontation and war to make a political statement about a very simple human reality: the status quo which had defined the Arab World in the second half of this century is unacceptable to most Arabs. For Washington and London, however, the status quo is perfectly fine. Look at the last two decades: the Arab World spent hundreds of billions of dollars buying arms and other goods from the West, placed somewhere around \$500 billion in western banks and investments, spent at least \$30 billion to hire western armies to fight this war which destroyed Kuwait and Iraq, and now will spend another \$100-\$150 billion to reconstruct Arab lands and establish a flashy new security system which will require fresh purchases of tens of billions of dollars of western arms. All in all, this is a rather profitable arrangement for the West — so it is no wonder Great Britain worked so hard seven decades ago to put it in place, and the Arabs made it so clear seven months ago that it does not respond to their human needs and aspirations.

Did the members of the cash-register coalition get this Arab message? If they did, and the post-war period now sees a serious effort to solve the outstanding problems of the region, and to redress its artificial human and natural resource imbalances which stem from Britain's imperial arrogance earlier this century, then we may have a truly historic opportunity to see the Middle East enter into a new golden age. Initial signs are encouraging. Western leaders are talking in their sleep about the need to resolve the Palestine issue. One rarely hears the words "the Middle East" roll off human lips these days without a follow-up comment about the urgency of a more equitable economic

balance in the region, the need for arms control agreements, the usefulness of democracy and human rights, and the importance of justice as the foundation for stability.

We are not angry because of a mass hormonal disorder and we are not anti-American and anti-British because of Third World radical chic. Anti-American and anti-British rage and hatred dominate this region because people are fed up with being repeatedly hit and humiliated, they despair at a lifetime of national defeat and subjugation at the hands of a British-created and American-financed Israel, they worry about their immediate life prospects, and they fear for the future of their children. If the root causes of this attitude are dealt with and resolved, the Arab World will have its first opportunity in five long centuries to show what it can do and how it can contribute its share to the civilisation of the world, as it did in the past. In this context, reconciliation, honesty, and rationality should be the defining forces of the immediate future, both within the Arab World and between Arabs and westerners.

However, if the root problems of the region are left unresolved, are simply papered over to suit the mercantile calculations of the cash-register coalition, or are aggravated under a gruesome new groundswell of neo-colonial arrogance and greed, then the region will be in for some very dark days. The danger now is that those drinking from the fountains of money and militarism will become intoxicated to the point where they will worship money and militarism as the gods that bring stability, peace and security. But money and militarism are false and retributive gods. This, of course, is the mistake that scores of autocratic or short-sighted leaders have made around the world during the past several decades, including the Shah, Marcos, the South Africans, the Soviets in Afghanistan and East Europe, and many others. Let's hope the mistake is not repeated today, though the chances of repetition and short-sightedness are high when we deal with narrow-focus folk.

If the pan-Arab political message of the last seven months of confrontation and war is not heeded, it will resurface in the near future with greater vehemence and determination, with potentially tumultuous consequences. Many of us around here have been saying these same things about the Palestine issue for decades, to no avail. The result has been six regional wars (this last one being a mini-world war) and turmoil in many individual Arab states. Perhaps this will be the last war.

Perhaps now political leaders around the region and around the world will listen more earnestly to the aspirations of the Arab people. Perhaps this morally and physically destructive war was the price that finally made people realise the need to resolve the structural and political deficiencies of the region, or else face another explosion, in another part of the region, at another time. This may be the unavoidable message of the mass madness that recently engulfed the region and much of the world. Let us hope that lessons have been learned in the last seven months, and the last seven decades.

## Palestinian losses, Israeli gains increase obstacles to peace

By Jack Redden  
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The balance has tilted heavily against the Palestinians in the seven months of the Gulf crisis, leaving Israel stronger and Palestinians weaker as the search for peace between them resumes.

U.S. Secretary of State Baker saw his last plan for Israeli-Palestinian peace wounded by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and buried by the Gulf war. When he begins his first post-war Middle East tour later this week he will find the obstacles have grown.

"There is no incentive in this country to do anything but sit tight," a western diplomat said in

an appraisal dominated by pessimism. Israel, struck by Iraqi missiles although not in the Gulf war, has won large amounts of western aid, regained the sympathy it lost in its unequal battle with the Palestinians and watched as its most formidable Arab enemy was crushed.

Palestinians, lining up behind Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, have alienated the West and former Arab patrons and face the most severe economic pressure in their 23 years under Israeli military rule.

Shamir talks bluntly of never relinquishing the West Bank and Gaza Strip, captured in the 1967 Middle East war and site of a revolt by the 1.75 Palestinian

residents that has lasted more than three years.

In what was seen by many as a signal to Washington of his attitude to any renewed pressure for Israeli concessions, Shamir expanded his government to include the most anti-Arab party in parliament.

Arrests of prominent Palestinians, including the jailing of soft-spoken academic Sari Nusseibeh for three months without trial on allegations he spied for Iraq, have reinforced the message.

The outbreak of the Gulf war also let Israel tighten the economic screws that had been squeezing Palestinians since the autumn. Restrictions on working in Israel originally enforced after Arab

knife attacks on Jews became a complete ban during most of the war.

The ban has been eased mainly to admit labourers needed by Israel's construction and citrus industries. However, many expect a permanent cut in the pre-war level of more than 100,000 Palestinians earning a living in Israel.

At the same time the Palestinians are suffering directly from the Gulf war. Remittances from relatives in Kuwait abruptly ended last August 2 when Iraq invaded.

They compounded the damage by openly siding with Iraq, angering the Saudis and other Gulf states that formerly dispensed funds to Palestinian institutions.

"They kept thinking that Saddam would be victorious," said Khalil Mahshi, principal of the Friends School in the West Bank town of Ramallah. "You create a lie and keep believing it."

The open backing of Iraq by the Palestine Liberation Organisation has stripped it of most international support, leaving it even more unclear who could represent Palestinians in peace talks.

Both Israelis and Palestinians are speculating on a revival of attempts to build a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for peace talks. Such efforts may be of little consequence as the Palestinian side has little power to force concessions.

Shamir's government is determined to give no more than a limited self-rule to Palestinians and is relentlessly tightening its grip on the occupied territories through Jewish immigration.

In addition, Israel does not expect Washington, with troops still in the Gulf, to focus first on

the Palestinian issue. By next year President George Bush could be pre-occupied with his re-election rather than an intractable Middle East problem.

Washington's leverage over Israel is the billions of dollars in aid it needs to absorb Soviet immigrants.

However, Shamir delayed receiving U.S. loan guarantees of \$400 million for months rather than provide information that might be used to slow Jewish settlement of the occupied territories.

Shamir, now 76 years old and nearing the end of his career, put control of the occupied land above even the needs of the hundreds of thousands of Jews flooding out of the Soviet Union.

Joseph Alpher, of the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies, says Shamir's message had become much harder during the Gulf crisis and is now unambiguous: "On the Palestinian issue don't expect any new flexibility from us."

## Arafat, PLO face turbulent time

By Mona Ziade  
The Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Hard times lie ahead for the Palestine Liberation Organisation and its chairman, Yasser Arafat, who supported Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in the Gulf war.

Iraq has been defeated in the war for Kuwait. The oil-rich Gulf Arab states have angrily stopped the flow of funds for the Palestinian cause.

The PLO's relations with most Arab leaders are now soured by hostility and distrust and the movement itself has been shaken.

But, with the war over, western and Arab leaders agree the time is ripe for a new drive to settle the Palestinian problem, the root of conflict in the Middle East for more than four decades.

"All efforts should now be deployed with the view of resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict with the same rapidity as that which settled the Gulf crisis, on the basis of international legality," declared Yasser Arafat, a member of the PLO's ruling executive committee in Tunis.

Achieving an Arab-Israeli peace will be the main task for the "new world order" President George Bush wants to establish.

That in itself is a political victory for the PLO, which for 23 years has warned there can be no peace in the Middle East until the Palestinian issue is resolved.

But the position of Israel's right-wing government has been hardened by the war and by Arafat's backing for Saddam.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has brought more hardliners into his cabinet. The continuing mass emigration of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews to Israel, an issue overshadowed by the war, will again become a major bone of contention.

Arafat's backing of Saddam as the only Arab leader prepared to stand up to Israel also has eroded support for peace negotiations among some moderates in the Jewish state. And Israel may expect the United States to back it as a reward for staying out of the war despite Iraqi missile bombardments.

There are differences among the allies over how to tackle the Arab-Israeli dispute. The Americans broke off a dialogue with the PLO last May and show no willingness to resume it.

But France's foreign minister, Roland Dumas, declared Thursday that the PLO is the only organisation that can speak for the world's 5 million Palestinians.

Now the Gulf states are ceasing their financial support of the PLO. Before Arafat stood with Saddam, the PLO was getting some \$15 million a month from the Gulf states, much of which bankrolled the 3-year-old Palestinian uprising in Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The deportation by the Gulf states of many of the 2 million Palestinians who worked there has cut off another \$8 million to \$10 million a month in remittances.

Arafat years ago shrewdly made contingency plans for just such an emergency by investing an estimated \$2 billion in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. But he's still had to slash the PLO's annual \$300-million budget by 35 per cent.



Yasser Arafat

such an emergency by investing an estimated \$2 billion in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. But he's still had to slash the PLO's annual \$300-million budget by 35 per cent.

Backing Saddam has left Arafat himself in a precarious position. Saudi Arabia, once the PLO's main donor, and other Gulf states are not likely to forgive what they see as Arafat's betrayal until he is ousted.

But Arafat has been written off many times since he took control of the PLO in 1969 and welded it into a political and military force.

Arab leaders have tried before to get rid of him. Some turned their armies on the PLO in the

1970s to curb the PLO's growing power. Egypt and Syria have engineered mutinies within the PLO.

Thirteen years ago, Zbigniew Brzezinski, then national security adviser to U.S. President Jimmy Carter, declared "bye-bye PLO" after Arafat opposed the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's peace overture to Israel.

Arafat was written off again in 1982 when Israel invaded Lebanon, stripping the PLO of its power base and forcing it to disperse its fighters around the Arab World.

A year later, he was fighting for his life against Syrian-backed radical dissidents opposed to his moves to seek to negotiate with Israel rather than continue the armed struggle and to halt terror attacks on non-Israeli targets.

But Arafat has survived because of the support he enjoys among the vast majority of Palestinians. To them, the 60-year-old pistol-packing revolutionary symbolises their struggle for a homeland.

Still, he now will have to face what could be his greatest challenge without his two most trusted advisers.

Salah Khalaf, Arafat's deputy, was assassinated in Tunis by a renegade bodyguard on the eve of the war. Arafat's military chief, Khalil Al Wazir, was slain by gunmen in Tunis April 16, 1988.

The PLO blamed Israel for both assassinations, which seriously weakened Arafat's inner circle and his operational apparatus.

## LETTERS

### Voices of sanity

To the Editor:

I AM a British national, and as such I feel obliged to write to your paper to say to as many people in Jordan as possible, how much that I, and indeed many other Britons, admire and support the stance taken by Jordan in the Gulf war, and in particular the very courageous speech made by His Majesty King Hussein early last month (Feb. 6).

Most other nations in the area have been bought off by the Americans with their cheque-book diplomacy, but Jordan to its eternal credit has stood out in opposition to the terrible saturation bombing campaign that took place against Iraq.

Sadly, due to the unremitting propaganda of the British media, anti-war views in Britain were still a minority, which they surely would not be if the real reasons for the conflict were given a proper hearing.

The truth of the matter is that Britain and America desired war against Iraq from the outset, there was no serious attempt to reach a peaceful diplomatic solution to the Kuwait crisis: instead a deadline for war was set and more troops and arms sent out. In fact the last thing the "allies" desired was a peaceful end to the crisis, as that would have removed the raison d'être for their forces being there and the pretext for attacking Iraq and toppling Saddam Hussein. The bombing of Baghdad and other Iraqi towns and cities is an unforgivable act, which I as a British citizen feel deeply ashamed of, and upset about: untold death and destruction have been caused, all in order to guarantee cheap oil for the West. Our Prime Minister John Major consistently sought to reassure us that we were fighting a "just" war, but how can setting out to destroy, by saturation bombing night after night, another nation be considered just? King Hussein's speech, voicing no doubt the views of the vast majority of people in Jordan, was the voice of sanity in the wilderness, and whatever the outcome in the Gulf, Jordan has won the admiration of many for its brave stance.

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## PoWs

(Continued from page 1)

were taken by Iraq, and that at least 60,000 Iraqis were taken prisoner.

Sixty-six allied troops were listed as missing — 45 Americans, 10 Britons, 10 Saudis and one Italian — since the war began Jan. 17.

Wigger said the Red Cross so far did not have any access to the other PoWs.

"We understood this will be the beginning of a long process to liberate all the PoWs, the Iraqis and the allies," he said.

Angelo Gnaedinger, Red Cross delegate-general for the Middle East and North Africa, said all 10 allied soldiers freed Monday were found to be in good health after a checkup by Red Cross doctors.

The freeing of prisoners was among terms agreed to by Iraqi commanders in truce talks at an air base in southeastern Iraq on Sunday, three days after an informal ceasefire took hold.

Under the terms, U.S. forces would leave Iraqi territory once a permanent ceasefire is signed and Iraq has complied with all U.N. resolutions, including accepting liability for war damages and renouncing all claims to Kuwait.

Baghdad Radio announced later Sunday that Iraq had accepted United Nations peace conditions. In return, the Security Council authorised mercy flights into Baghdad of food, medicine and water purification equipment.

Despite the halt in hostilities, the conflict continued to claim lives. U.S. military officials announced the deaths of four more U.S. soldiers in a helicopter crash in northern Saudi Arabia on Saturday.

France begins pullout today

France will start withdrawing its forces from the Gulf Tuesday when a first flight of four Jaguar fighter-bombers return from Saudi Arabia to their home base at Toulouse, an air force spokesman said.

The withdrawal of more than 50 French planes and about 120 helicopters will take place in stages with the last aircraft due back around September, the spokesman said.

President Francois Mitterrand said Sunday that French ground troops will start returning to April and all 16,000 men who participated in the conflict would be back by the autumn.

In London, Defence Secretary Tom King said he did not expect Britain to keep ground troops in the Gulf as part of any international peacekeeping force, but added that some British naval or air forces might stay on.

King, asked during a television interview in Kuwait what British forces might be stationed on a more permanent basis, said: "We don't envisage having any ground forces here in the Gulf in any particular country."

"It's quite possible that we'd see the need for maintaining a navy presence," he told the British Broadcasting Corporation. "The question of the RAF (Royal Air Force), that's something that we're looking at as well."

King, visiting British forces in the region, said the withdrawal of the 40,000 British troops could start "two weeks after we're sure of the ceasefire."

## Ibrahim

(Continued from page 1)

deep-rooted tradition, and its symbol — the leader of the march, under those auspicious leadership we enjoy a standing ovation by those near and far."

Ibrahim told the group that the "grand victory achieved against the most tyrannical forces of evil and crime in the world is a great honour for us, but martyrdom for its sake is a greater honour."

Iraq's official Islamic Republic news agency, monitored in Nicosia, reported five explosions at midday in Basra. It said refugees fleeing the violence were streaming into Iraq across the border at Shalamchah.

Iraqi opposition sources in Damascus, Syria, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Iraqi Shi'ite are sending fighters into Basra.

They said the Shi'ites, who make up 55 per cent of the Iraqi population, have asked the Kurdish minority to smuggle guerrillas into northern Iraq, forcing Saddam to divide his loyal forces for fighting on two fronts. Saddam and most of his inner circle are Sunni Muslims.

The sources in Damascus also said that some Iraqi Shi'ite clerics who have been living in exile for more than 20 years plan to return to Basra in the next few days to deliver their Friday sermons there.

Earlier, refugees fleeing Iraq told reporters in Iran that Saddam's eldest son, Uday, was killed in the battle, along with a provincial governor and the mayor of Basra, according to Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency.

An Iraqi opposition leader in

Damascus, Syria, also reported the killings Sunday of the governor and mayor in the reported uprising. The leader did not mention Saddam's son Uday.

The Iranian agency said the refugees reported government forces were using tanks and heavy weapons to battle the rebels. It said the sound of explosions could be heard 25 miles away in the Iranian city of Khorramshahr.

The agency said some people were wounded in the clashes. The reports could not be independently confirmed.

The news agency reported five explosions over 25 minutes at midday rocked Basra and its suburbs. The violent explosions could be heard on the Iranian side of the border.

The cause of the explosions was not immediately known, the news agency said.

Quoting an Iraqi refugee who identified himself as Oud Jalil Sekar from Tanuma, the news agency said Iraqi soldiers had broken into army warehouses in Basra and distributed food and other supplies to the local population.

Sekar told the news agency that he walked from southern Iraq into Iran and on his way saw many old men and women as well as many children on the road to the border.

He added that allied forces had begun handing over the bodies of Iraqi soldiers killed in action to the people of Basra for burial.

U.S. military sources said 7,000 soldiers were recalled to Baghdad, apparently to protect Saddam. The U.S. military sources said Saddam had ordered two mechanised brigades from the Turkish and Iranian borders to the capital.

Iraq's official radio portrayed Saddam as maintaining a firm hold on power. Baghdad Radio said he met with the ruling Revolutionary Command Council and the Baath Party regional command, to discuss "the latest developments in the political situation." No details of the meeting were provided.

Iraqi officials have not commented on the reports of unrest. Mohammad Baqer Al Hakim told reporters that Basra's governor was killed in the revolt.

Retreating soldiers and low-rank officers of Saddam's army had joined the people.

"The popular forces in the uprising have destroyed 100 tanks but casualties are high and tanks attack the people," said Hakim, 52, head of the Tehran-based Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI).

## Pardon

(Continued from page 1)

"They (planes) carried out deliberate and fabricated air violations during which they broke the sound barrier over Baghdad and the governorates," Baghdad Radio quoted him as saying in a statement.

"The aim of these provocative operations is to terrorise the citizens. They conflict with the concept of the cessation of war and the (U.N.) Security Council resolution," he added.

Iraq Sunday accepted all allied terms for a ceasefire which is still to be signed by the two sides.

Baghdad residents, their nerves still frayed by six weeks of heavy aerial bombing and missile attacks, said the booms triggered fears the allies had resumed hostilities.

U.S. military officials have said allied warplanes would continue to overfly Iraq despite the suspension of offensive operations last week.

Life in Baghdad has started to return to normal after electricity was restored to some parts of the capital and other Iraqi cities on Sunday night.

Baghdad Radio stopped broadcasting inflammatory patriotic songs and were replaced by love songs by Lebanese and Egyptian singers.

It carried repeated instructions by the education ministry advising students to return on Saturday to schools closed since the Gulf war began on Jan. 17.

## Arafat

(Continued from page 1)

clined to state a clear position on whether it wanted to see Arafat replaced before returning financial backing.

The oil-rich kingdom, furious at Arafat's support for Iraq, cut its financial backing to the PLO soon after the Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

A Reuters report last Thursday quoted diplomats and political analysts as saying Saudi Arabia wanted Arafat replaced.

"All that was mentioned in the analysis... is... unfounded," a Saudi official said late on Sunday, referring to the report.

The state-run Saudi Press Agency quoted the official as denying another Western news agency report that Saudi Arabia has promised to resume its financial backing.

## Iran to play key post-war role, edges towards U.S.

By Ed Blanche  
The Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Iran has made substantial gains in the Gulf crisis and will play a key role in reshaping the region's political future. It even shows signs of moving towards a new relationship with the United States.

The war provided President Hashemi Rafsanjani with a golden opportunity to accelerate his efforts to build bridges with the West and Iran's Arab neighbors, to end Iran's isolation and crank up the economy.

By staying neutral in the conflict essentially between two countries Iran has long considered hostile, Rafsanjani used the crisis to gain leverage with the allies and build up credit for the postwar horse-trading.

His boldest stroke came on Feb. 5, when he offered to mediate in the crisis and declared what would once have been heresy in Tehran. — He was prepared to talk to the Americans "if necessary."

Rafsanjani thus signalled his readiness to "overturn one of the fundamental principles of Iranian foreign policy" since the 1979 Islamic revolution, said veteran Middle East analyst Charles Snow.

Secretary of State James A. Baker acknowledged the next day that "Iran, as a major power in the Gulf... could have an important part to play... the building a reinforced network of new and strengthened security ties" in the region.

Arab diplomats said U.S. President George Bush later sent a message to Rafsanjani, although its contents were not known.

In addition, French President Francois Mitterrand telephoned Rafsanjani and spoke with him for two hours, the first time he had talked to an Iranian leader since the revolution.

France's foreign minister, Roland Dumas, later stressed: "Iran will have an important role to play in the postwar negotiations."

Representative Lee Hamilton,

who chairs the House of Representatives subcommittee on the Middle East, noted last month that the United States "should be receptive to efforts to establish new and better ties when (Iran) is willing to settle outstanding issues."

He was referring to the western hostages, including six Americans, held by pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslim extremists in Lebanon, and the issue of billions of dollars of Iranian assets frozen in the United States since 1979.

Snow noted: "It could well be that the war will mark the end of Tehran's 11-year flirtation with revolutionary extremism and the emergence of Iran as an influential and respected player on both the regional and international scenes."

## NEWS ANALYSIS

For sure, the restoration of relations between Tehran and Washington, severed by U.S. President Jimmy Carter in 1979, will not happen overnight.

But in the new climate of pragmatism prevailing in Iran today under Rafsanjani, such a development is clearly now a distinct if still-distant possibility.

Rafsanjani is ideologically committed to the Islamic revolution as any other Iranian leader. But he understands that no country can remain as isolated as Iran has been and survive.

"It's a tribute to Rafsanjani's political skills... that he has managed to put Iran in a position which is as favourable towards the coalition as anyone in the alliance could have hoped, with scarcely a murmur of dissent from his radical opponents," Snow noted.

Since the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the Islamic republic's revolutionary founder, Rafsanjani has steadily revised ideology to suit political necessity and pushed fundamentalism into the background.

Rafsanjani has over the last

two years steadily gained control of the centres of power in Tehran. He has largely marginalised the radicals and whittled down opposition to his policies.

But there remains an ambivalence towards the United States. Iranians are suspicious of U.S. intentions in the region and fear the Americans will seek to expand their influence, particularly over Gulf oil.

On Sunday, Rafsanjani warned the United States against stationing forces in the Gulf or attempting to sponsor a security arrangement.

Iran believes the Americans intend to maintain a sizeable military presence in the region for some time, despite Bush's promises that U.S. forces would be withdrawn as soon as possible once Kuwait was liberated.

U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said Saturday that a "robust air presence" will likely be kept in the Gulf. But he stressed that Washington wants to avoid a "politically objectionable" presence.

Ritual condemnation of the Americans still issues from Tehran. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Khomeini's successor, on Saturday branded Bush "the most hated man" for Muslims.

But analysts believe Khamenei regularly spouts such anti-American rhetoric to mollify Iran's radicals rather than by way of espousing official policy.

For their part, the Americans would not like to see Iran fill the power vacuum in the postwar period now that Iraq has been humbled.

But Baker's Feb. 6 statement showed that Washington acknowledges that there can be no lasting stability in the Gulf without Iranian participation.

Although Rafsanjani parlayed with Baghdad during the crisis, few Iranians shed any tears while Saddam humiliated and defeated. Iraq's military had come out of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war in far better shape than Iran's.

## Penury, homelessness, decay shatter German's unity dreams

By Mark Heinrich  
Reuter

GRIMMA, Germany — A wall plaque in a restaurant in the dilapidated east German town of Grimma reads, "... and out of the chaos a voice said to me, 'smile, it could be worse.' And I smiled, and it got worse."

Some diners read the plaque and grimace. Five months after German unification, east German's dreams of affluence have been crushed by the reality of impoverishment and decay as west Germans get ever richer.

Almost one in three east Germans are out of work, their old Communist industries flattened by western competition.

Hundreds of thousands now wake before dawn, ride a bus for up to four hours into west Germany, perform a day's menial labour in a modern factory and return home exhausted after nightfall.

They are "guest workers" in their own country. The former inter-German border they cross was once the iron curtain. Now critics call it the "prosperity curtain."

In Leipzig, the industrial city where the 1989 revolution that led to union with the west erupted, homeless people sleep in heated railway coaches parked in the cavernous main station.

Young women take up prostitution for lack of legitimate work. Unemployed rightwing thugs beat up Asians and Africans, many of whom were brought to east Germany as guest workers by the former Communist government.

In Grimma, a small town near Leipzig, itinerant west German entrepreneurs dominate the daily street market and many former state-owned retail stores are in west German hands — a scene repeated throughout the east.

So the money goes west and the east stays poor. Potential east German tax revenues are reaped in the west.

Development has become a fantasy for local governments reduced to fending off bankruptcy

with handouts from the Bonn government.

"(Chancellor Helmut) Kohl waged a lot of his December election campaign in the east and it was moving for us to be a part of it," said Lutz Langhardt, a regional administrator.

"He promised prosperity for all and there was so much pent-up anticipation here. Now we see we are only a sales market for west German goods," he said.

"West Germany is booming off us. Are we heading for a Germany with two distinct societies, rich and poor?"

Yvette Praedel, a Grimma waitress, spoke for many in saying she never expected the east to catch up with the west quickly but could not imagine it falling back so far so fast.

"I feel ignored by the wessies (west Germans). They just did not recognise how much help we needed to adjust to capitalism," she said while listlessly clearing tables.

Steffi Fichtner, 45, a single mother threatened with unemployment after her kindergarten stopped receiving state subsidies, burst into tears as she railed against west German arrogance.

"The wessies just think, 'well, we helped the wessies (east Germans) out of their communist prison and now they should take whatever we give them,'" she said. "We're just second-class citizens."

Many east Germans have felt that way since west Germans began taking over the economy and prescribing social changes en route to east Germany's formal absorption by west Germany.

East Germany is now officially known as the "five new federal states," as if its history began on October 3, 1990. It is also called "the accession area" by dismissive west Germans.

Polls show a plunge in west German sympathy for east Germans. For many, the east German revolutionaries of 1989 are now an opportunistic, faceless proletariat who demand affluence without working for it.

The stereotype east German is seen as a lazy, unskilled worker without initiative — not a surprising assumption after 40 years of communism where jobs were guaranteed no matter how superfluous and the state dictated every aspect of life.

For many west Germans, east Germany remains an uninviting and strange east bloc country.

"Oh, we wouldn't think of travelling in east Germany as long as it's so run-down, dirty and lacking in basic services like good hotels and nice restaurants," a Heidelberg interior designer told a Berlin relative who invited her to a visit.

Some commentators say east Germans forfeited west German respect after renouncing Communism and throwing themselves into the arms of the west without pausing to learn the art of getting ahead in a competitive society.

For their part, west Germans' aloofness to east Germans in need is attributed by political analysts to the decay of national pride after Germany's World War II defeat and subsequent division.

"Because our national feeling is so weak, the most vital element is missing — an emotional share in the difficulties of our compatriots and lasting readiness to help," the influential west German weekly Die Zeit said.

West German officials for months resisted the bailout demands of destitute east German governments in order to avoid forcing tax increases on the west's prosperous economy.

This fiscal fight was defused last month after Bonn admitted it had underestimated the cost of German unity and unveiled tax increases.

"Die Zeit commented: 'Almost every west German had something more urgent in their head in 1990 than unification. Two German states had become almost self-evident for most.'

"They were totally satisfied with their own federal republic. They did not need east Germany. And if they were supposed to unify, then please do it according to their standards and, if possible, to their own advantage."

## UNRWA

(Continued from page 1)

Also Monday, Police Minister Roni Milo said police had taken additional steps to insure the safety of Jews living in Jerusalem's old city following the stabbing murder of a Jewish seminary student last Wednesday.

Several Palestinians have been arrested for questioning in the incident, which occurred in the Muslim quarter of the old city.

The slaying broke a lull in fatal attacks by Palestinians during the Gulf war.

"We have put more forces there... and put into effect new and efficient methods," Milo told Israel Radio. "We will use all the means and act firmly in order to prevent such incidents."

Milo said more than 121 Palestinians had been arrested in Jerusalem in the past week, but did not say why.

A representative of the Ateret Cohanim Seminary, where the murdered man had studied, told parliament's interior committee on Monday that Jews living in the old city should be allowed to carry personal weapons.

Mattiyahu Cohen told Israel radio that police needed to impose harsher punishments on Palestinians to prevent crimes. He suggested curfews, confiscating homes and deporting stone throwers.

The seminary is headquartered in the Muslim quarter of the old city and seeks to buy Arab property to convert it to Jewish use.

## GCC

(Continued from page 1)

detainees and reparations have been settled.

GCC ministers reaffirmed support for efforts by Arab and other states to convene an international peace conference on the Palestinian problem. They insisted on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and an independent state. But they did not mention the Palestine Liberation Organisation as leader of the Palestinian people.

The communiqué also said the council pledges to foster ties among the Arab countries on basis of the Arab League charter. They expressed gratitude to the

United States, Britain, France, Canada and other Western and Third World nations that helped in the military campaign that ended the seven-month occupation of the GCC member state.

Egypt's Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid left Monday for Syria where he will attend a meeting with his counterparts from the GCC and Syria to discuss post-war security arrangements for the region.

The government-run Middle East News Agency said the eight countries, the principle Arab members of the anti-Iraqi alliance, are expected to announce after their two-day meeting a joint security plan for the Gulf.

The ministers will also discuss a framework for economic cooperation between Egypt, Syria and the wealthy members of the GCC.

The meeting in the Syrian capital Damascus is the second between foreign ministers of the eight countries. They met last month in Cairo where they agreed on a formula for their security and economic well-being after the Gulf war.

## Kuwait

(Continued from page 1)

petent ministers.

"We don't believe there is a way to rebuild Kuwait without democracy," said Saad Al Hashil, a dean at Kuwait university.

He argued that the invasion of Kuwait was in part due to a lack of a democratic process and that the ordeal through which the country had passed would push the country towards a more liberal system.

"The people are not willing to go back to the old era (before the war)," said Iman, a young woman active in the resistance who gave only her first name. "People want parliament returned and they want free newspapers."

She cited foreign news broadcasts just prior to the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion reporting the massing of 300,000 Iraqi troops along Kuwait's borders while the government assured citizens that the crisis with Baghdad had been resolved.

The crown prince serves as prime minister in a cabinet which includes six royal family members in the 22-man line-up. The depu-

ty prime minister is also an Al Sabah.

Priority for anti-Iraq workers

Meanwhile Kuwait's labour union chief said on Monday workers from countries in the anti-Iraq alliance should be given preference in rebuilding the emirate.

"It is important to lay down specific regulations to (foreign manpower) by giving priority to workers from countries that took positive attitudes towards the Kuwaiti cause," the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) quoted Hayef Issam Al Ajami as saying.

Young Kuwaitis must be encouraged to accept technical jobs and not "limit themselves to clerical and administrative tasks," he said.

"Excess (foreign) manpower could cause internal and external problems."

Kuwaiti nationals represented only 40 per cent of Kuwait's total pre-invasion population of around two million, including some 400,000 Palestinians.

Ajami did not spell out what would happen to the 170,000 Palestinians who stayed in Kuwait after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion. Some were accused of collaborating with Iraq.

French ministers in Kuwait

Also Monday, two French government ministers arrived in Kuwait city to discuss French participation in the reconstruction of the emirate, the foreign ministry said in Paris.

It said Budget Minister Michel Charasse and junior Foreign Minister Thierry de Beauce were in the Kuwaiti capital for "economic and political discussions."

Charasse and de Beauce are the first government ministers to travel to Kuwait from the allied coalition that liberated Kuwait last week. French officials said.

They met Kuwaiti leaders in the Saudi Arabian town of Taif on Sunday before travelling on to Kuwait city.

Philippines to reopen embassy

The Philippines will send a five-member diplomatic team to Kuwait to reopen the embassy there and document possible atrocities against Filipino workers, a government official said Monday.

Foreign Undersecretary Manuel Yan told reporters the team would leave as soon as Manila received clearance from Kuwaiti authorities.

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Asian tourism faces hard work to recoup war losses

HONG KONG (R) — Asia's booming tourism industry, hard hit by the fall-out from the Gulf war, will have to work to recoup losses chalked up in the past few months.

Hotel occupancy rates are way down and the number of visitors from the Middle East, Europe and the United States has slowed to a trickle.

Midway through 1990 a traveller without a reservation would have been hard-pressed to get a room at one of Hong Kong's luxury hotels.

Now the upmarket Hotel Conrad, eager to better its occupancy rates of well under 50 per cent, is offering a 40 per cent cut in room rates in a bid to pull in business.

In the Indonesian holiday island of Bali it is the same story. Hotels which last year were packed with visitors report occupancy rates of around 20 per cent.

"I went into a \$150 a night five star (in Bali) and as a joke offered them \$20 for their best room, and they said yes," said one foreign resident of Jakarta.

In Malaysia, which reported a bumper response to its 1990 "Visit Malaysia" campaign, arrivals in January this year plummeted 14.6 per cent compared with January last year.

But local tourism experts were quick to discount the Gulf effect. "European tourists may delay their travelling until the war is over," said Azman Harun, president of the Malaysian Association of Hotels.

Thailand, whose tourism business has hit a 30 per cent decline since the war started, sees the industry gradually recovering.

Middle East holidaymakers, once big players in the Thai tourist market, have all but vanished. Arrivals of Saudi Arabians plummeted by 96.1 per cent in the last quarter of 1990, compared with the same period for 1989.

David Wigg, vice president of the Thai Hotels Association, saw March as being the wait-and-see month.

"People will see whether it is a permanent ceasefire," but added that he didn't expect business to pick up until November, traditionally the start of Thailand's high season.

The Tourist Authority of Thailand, anxious that the country's reputation as a major holiday destination be preserved, sent delegations throughout Asia and Europe carrying the message that the kingdom was safe.

In the Philippines, where hotels reported occupancy rates of around 56 per cent, some hotel

managers reported signs that things were improving.

"We are beginning to experience an increase in bookings and hopefully by the middle of the year, if nothing else happens along the way, we will have the normal flow," said Leny Fabul of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Manila.

The Japanese, regarded as being in the Olympic class when it comes to travelling abroad in groups, can be expected to switch their focus back to international trips as the fallout from the Gulf war subsides.

Officials at the Japan National Tour Organisation said fear of "terrorism" and what he termed negative psychological factors — the fleeing that pleasure trips should not be taken when a war is in progress — would subside with the end of hostilities.

Hong Kong, a traditional shopping and hub point for tourists from Europe, the United States and Asia, knows it needs a major campaign to bring things back on track.

"The Gulf war has definitely affected the arrival figures for this year as a greater increase would normally have been expected," said Hong Kong Tourist Association Chairman Martin Barrow.

World Bank expects significant role to rebuild Iraq, Kuwait

SANTIAGO, Chile (R) — The World Bank expects to help rebuild Kuwait and Iraq, even though they are not eligible for loans because of their high per capita incomes, bank president Barber Conable said Sunday.

He said the bank will probably help with technical assistance, coordination of aid flows and institutional development activities.

"Because they are members of the World Bank, I would expect us to have a significant role, but it will have to be defined in negotiations among many of the concerned countries," Conable told a news conference.

Conable said Iraq and Kuwait were not eligible for World Bank loans on the basis of their abundant oil wealth.

Technical assistance is provided to some Gulf states but is reimbursable, he said.

"The reservoir of talent and motivation (gathered by) the World Bank in 45 years of experience in development and reconstruction make it probable that the nations of the world will turn to us for a significant role," he said.

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Kuwait Airways staff to fly home Thursday

CAIRO (R) — A Kuwait Airways plane will land at Kuwait airport Thursday for the first time since Iraq invaded seven months ago, a company executive said Monday.

Deputy director general Yousef Al Jassem told Reuters a Boeing 727 carrying engineers and flight crews would fly from Cairo, the exiled airline's temporary headquarters.

"The runway is alright, it can take airplanes. But the ground terminals and premises have been heavily damaged," he said. "All the ground handling equipment has been looted."

He said the airline chairman and director general were in Kuwait to study how quickly they could restart.

When Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, eight of the airline's 23 airplanes were out of the country. Most staff and management fled abroad.

In October the company began limited flights to New York, London, the Gulf and India from Cairo, partly as a political statement to show the Kuwaiti flag.

Jassem said he had no word on the fate of the aircraft in Kuwait at the time of the invasion. Earlier, the airline said it believed they had been flown to various airports within Iraq.

"We have nothing on the aircraft. But they definitely fell within the last U.N. Security Council resolution calling for compensation for Kuwait," he said.

Kuwait Airways said in October it had submitted a \$690 million insurance claim in London for the lost aircraft and another \$150 million for spare parts taken by Iraq.

Jassem said a contract had been signed with the U.S. consulting firm Arthur Andersen to prepare a plan for rebuilding the airline, but so far no other contracts had been awarded.

"The first priority will be to reestablish and rebuild facilities in Kuwait to receive passengers, either on Kuwait Airways or other airlines," said Jassem.

Electronics giant posts huge loss

EINDHOVEN, Netherlands (R) — Philips, Europe's largest consumer electronics firm and inventor of the audio cassette tape and the compact disc, has reported a huge 1990 loss Thursday but pledged a return to profitability this year.

N.V. Philips Gloeilampenfabrieken put its net 1990 loss at 4.24 billion guilders (\$2.51 billion). The loss was bigger than many share analysts had expected after Philips said in November it expected to lose four billion guilders (\$2.3 billion).

The company made a net profit of 1.37 billion guilders (\$797.2 million) in 1989.

Last year's loss takes into account costs of 4.65 billion guilders (\$2.71 billion) for a sweeping restructuring programme, which includes up to 55,000 job cuts.

Of these cuts some 20,000 have already been made, leaving Philips with a worldwide workforce of 272,000 at the year end.

"We are confident that this organisation is on the road to recovery and will continue on that road," Philips Chairman Jan Timmer told a news conference at Philips' headquarters in the southern Dutch city of Eindhoven.

He said he did not rule out the company selling off some of its vast spread of activities, but declined further comment.

"I do expect that there will be a positive result in 1991," Timmer said, adding that he did not anticipate further major restructuring costs this year.

"We do not expect that in 1991, further provisions will be needed. We have to keep our eye on the ball now. All the rest will follow automatically," he said.

Timmer said his restructuring plan was aimed at streamlining the group, improving efficiency and changing the corporate culture — a reference to Philips' layers of middle managers.

"The restructuring means there is a profit awareness in all the layers of the organisation," he said.

The company did not pay a share dividend for 1990 after paying a total dividend of two guilders (\$1.16) a share in the previous year.

Philips also reported a net loss of 2.45 billion guilders (\$1.43 billion) for the fourth quarter of last year against a profit of 689 million (\$401 million) in the same period of 1989.

Analysts said that by taking in its restructuring costs in the second half of the last financial year, Philips had improved its prospects of returning to profitability quickly.

Uneasy post-war peace reigns between banks

BAHRAIN (R) — An uneasy peace reigns in the international market between Arab banks and those foreign institutions that ostracised them during the Gulf crisis triggered by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait seven months ago.

Now that peace has returned to the Gulf, central bankers in the region would like to punish those foreign banks for their lack of faith, monetary officials say.

Confidence in Gulf markets collapsed after the invasion and fears grew that Iraqi tanks would roll on into Saudi Arabia, and beyond. The wider Arab banking world also suffered severely.

Even the biggest Gulf banks woke up next morning to find many of their lines were cut into the interbank markets, through which banks balance their books by lending and borrowing huge sums of money for their own daily use.

Many regional bankers are bitter.

"It's not so much a question of punishing a bank. It's a matter of not wanting to do business with people who are going to dump you when the going gets rough," said a Saudi bank manager.

"Some banks in Holland and Germany were even refusing to confirm our letters of credit, even though we had business links going back 30 years," he said.

Some regional commercial bankers and brokers are not sure

punishing the foreigners would be a good idea.

They say the region will need all the funding and liquidity it can get its hands on to begin the daunting task of post-war reconstruction.

Life in the market is gradually returning.

Respected Gulf-based banks such as Arab Banking Corp. and Gulf International Bank should no longer need to pay over the odds to borrow Eurodollars — one of the main sources of money for banks, money brokers said.

During the crisis, some stable banks lost as much as 90 per cent of their facilities with other banks. Some banks with large Kuwaiti or Iraqi shareholdings were effectively cut off completely.

Regional bankers and monetary authorities reserve their deepest anger for Japanese institutions which, with few exceptions, not only refused to lend to the region, but also refused to take money from the region.

The United Arab Emirates' central bank government Abdul Malik Al Hamar was quoted last week as saying his fellow governors in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, and Kuwait were considering concerted punitive action.

Saudi bankers said the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) asked for a list of foreign banks which had cut lines.

But some bankers said they advised against official punishment for institutions which cut lines, and asked SAMA to leave reaction to individual banks.

Gulf brokers believe market forces will anyway reassert themselves.

"If the price is right, the dealer will deal. I think anti-bank sentiment is going to be short-lived," said one Gulf-based money brokerage manager.

In the early days of the Gulf conflict many bankers say there was a danger to the regional financial system that foreign banks would have been foolish to ignore completely.

Regional banks must also face the fact that the Gulf, which is traditionally a net provider of international liquidity from its oil revenues, will need to find hundreds of billions of dollars for post-war reconstruction and development, they say.

"This area is going to be a net borrower on the money markets," said another broker.

Some brokers also note that if Gulf central banks are going to punish intransigent institutions, they would also have to punish many Arab banks.

"There is no question that Arab banks were some of the biggest culprits. Some Arab banks couldn't cut lines to other Arab banks quickly enough," they said.

Czechoslovak parliament adopts privatisation law

PRAGUE (AP) — Parliament has voted to hand over all nationalised industry to private investors, passing landmark legislation designed to end four decades of state control of the economy.

With the vote, parliament adopted the most important law in the ambitious scheme to change the communist command economy into a market-oriented system.

Deputies present in the 300-seat legislature voted 157 in favour, 21 against, with 12 abstentions, the official news agency CTK said.

Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus, chief architect of economic reform, called the draft law a "historic document" when he presented it to parliament.

"It is an all-out attempt to get rid of... state ownership of industry and the only way to solve this enormous problem," deputy finance minister Dusan Triska, who drew up the legislation, said

in an interview.

All 1,500 industrial enterprises valued at 3,500 billion crowns (\$130 billion) should be available to domestic or foreign private investors by year's end, he said.

Czechoslovakia was among Europe's most advanced industrial countries before World War II. Its military, textile and engineering industries were respected worldwide.

Four decades of communist rule after 1918 brought its economy to the verge of collapse, leaving the nation's first post-communist government last year with disproportionate and outmoded heavy industry, and a polluted environment.

The country's economic reform shifted into high gear last month, leading with price deregulation and sell-offs of small shops, in auctions that gave the population the first taste of capitalism since World War II.

Klaus, in an interview, expressed optimism about the reform.

despite inevitable jumps in inflation and unemployment.

"We have the first month of price liberalisation behind us... and everything points to the fact we can manage it," the weekly Reflex quoted him as saying.

The new privatisation law permits the sell-offs of the country's most healthy industrial ventures to foreign investors, bringing capital needed to overhaul outdated technology.

Even before passage of the law, Volkswagen bought into the Czech Skoda works in late 1990. It plans to invest 9 billion Deutschmarks in Eastern Europe's largest car maker over the next four years.

Companies illegally nationalised by communists after 1948 will be returned to original owners or their descendants. Shares in the bulk of the remaining enterprises will be made available to other Czechoslovaks through an intricate system of government-issued.

Nicaraguan president announces package of austerity measures

MANAGUA (AP) — President Violeta Chamorro announced Sunday a package of austerity measures aimed at curbing inflation and reviving the country's war-battered economy.

The measures include a sharp currency devaluation and big price increases for food staples, utilities and fuels. To offset the impact, Mrs. Chamorro announced that pay would be tripled for public employees and state pensioners and ordered adjustments in savings accounts to reflect the devaluation.

Mrs. Chamorro, introducing the measures in a nationally broadcast speech, said the package was meant to stabilise the economy in advance of a March 25 meeting in Washington between Nicaraguan officials and representatives of international financial institutions and governments.

She urged "all Nicaraguans to unite in support (of the measures) so that we can face down our problems of inflation and poverty."

Nicaragua is seeking \$100 million in emergency aid from the Inter American Development Bank and the World Bank. The government says the aid is needed to offset damage to the economy caused by nine years of civil war between the leftist Sandinistas and U.S.-supported Contra rebels. The war ended last year after Mrs. Chamorro won an election victory over the Sandinistas.

The government says the Sandinistas' economic mismanagement also hurt the economy. The Chamorro government is having problems making payments on the \$10 billion foreign debt left behind by the Sandinistas.

Minister of the Presidency Antonio Lacayo, who outlined the package during the broadcast, said the government's most press-

ing economic problem was to curb runaway inflation.

He said an ongoing currency reform and the steep devaluation announced Sunday will hopefully curb inflation. Private economists estimate that the inflation rate topped 58 per cent in January.

"This problem of inflation will be solved, our currency will be stabilized, and in a few months' time we will feel a relief," Mr. Lacayo promised.

He said the gold-cordoba introduced seven months ago would be phased out immediately from one to five U.S. dollars.

The old-cordoba, which is being phased out, was also devalued from 5.2 million to 25 million to one dollar.

The old-cordobas will cease to be legal tender on April 30. Mr. Lacayo said people must exchange them for gold-cordobas by the deadline.

Australia sends mission to U.S. to pitch for grain sales to M.E.

CANBERRA (R) — Australia is sending a top-level mission to Washington to try to stop the United States subsidising post-war grain sales to the Middle East.

"One would hope we could point out very clearly that Australia has major markets in the Middle East, major markets before the war, and they would be respected after war," Trade Minister Neal Blewett told reporters Monday.

Blewett leaves Wednesday

with a team of Labour government officials, leaders of the Conservative opposition and farmers for talks with the United States government.

Australia has over the past three years exported an average of 306 million dollars (\$230 million) worth of wheat a year to Iraq, whose 600 million dollar (\$480 million) debt to Australia for wheat sales has been frozen by sanctions.

Blewett said Australia would be clearly disadvantaged if the

United States used its export enhancement programme to subsidise grain sales to the Middle East in the Gulf war's aftermath.

"We had a major market in Iraq and have a major market in Egypt and Iran. Increasing penetration of those markets by the United States using export enhancement subsidies would be seriously damaging to our wheat farmers, already hit by low prices due to an export subsidy war," Blewett said.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, March 4, 1991					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	668.0	672.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	493.5	496.5
Pound Sterling	1264.2	1271.8	Dutch guilder	394.2	396.5
Deutsche mark	433.1	435.7	Swedish crown	116.8	117.5
Swiss franc	499.1	502.1	Italian lira (for 100)	58.0	58.3
French franc	127.0	127.8	Belgian franc (for 10)	211.6	212.9

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.8980/90	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1545/55	Canadian dollar	
	1.5370/77	Deutsche mark	
	1.7310/20	Dutch guilders	
	1.3325/32	Swiss francs	
	31.63/68	Belgian francs	
	5.2330/80	French francs	
	1148/1149	Italian lire	
	135.15/25	Japanese yen	
	5.7075/25	Swedish crowns	
	6.0050/100	Norwegian crowns	
	5.9075/25	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	365.40/365.90	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Shares were dragged lower by gloomy job statistics and last week's news of \$1.3 billion of new share issues. The All Ordinaries index ended 8.2 down at 1387.2.

TOKYO — Stocks closed moderately firmer in light trade with many investors sidelined by uncertainty about interest rates and the economy. The Nikkei rose 94.45 to 25,976.02.

HONG KONG — Shares closed higher, recovering from early losses on late institutional buying. The Hang Seng index rose 11.97 points to 3,564.34 after hitting a low of 3,536.

SINGAPORE — Shares closed higher across the board on renewed buying interest with some profit-taking also seen. The Straits Times index ended up 9.87 at 1,472.85.

BOMBAY — Prices ended higher government proposed no fresh taxes in the interim budget. The BSE index rose 5.03 points to 1,225.44, after peaking at 1,231.29. The National index gained 4.63 to 611.98.

FRANKFURT — German shares ended 0.9 per cent higher with the DAX index at 1,530.86. One dealer said strong early gains for insurer Allianz helped swing prices higher.

PARIS — The Paris bourse posted a six-month closing high on continued expectations of interest rate cuts, traders said. The CAC-40 index closed at 1,766.74. Up 19.95 points or 1.14 per cent.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed slightly higher in quiet trading, dealers said. The all-share SPI index rose 11.8 points, or 1.17 per cent, to 1,022.8.

NEW YORK — U.S. blue chips advanced in afternoon trading, helped by some programme buying, traders said. The Dow was up 23 to 2,933.

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AGENTS & REPRESENTATIVE WORLD WIDE



## Latvia, Estonia defy Gorbachev in large voters for independence

RIGA, USSR (AP) — Latvians and Estonians have voted overwhelmingly for independence from the Soviet Union, sharpening the Baltic republics' standoff against the Kremlin which is trying to hold the nation together.

The referendums carried no legal weight but represented a challenge to President Mikhail Gorbachev.

With most ballots counted after Sunday's plebiscites, secession was favoured by more than three-fourths of the voters in both republics, officials said.

In Latvia, 77 per cent voted in favour of separation and 21 per cent voted against, election officials said, with only three districts in Riga remaining to report. They said 88 per cent of eligible voters cast ballots.

In Estonia, 77.8 per cent voted for independence, election officials said. Nearly 83 per cent of the voters cast ballots, they said.

According to unofficial results, members of the Russian minority in both republics joined ethnic Latvians and Estonians in calling for secession, despite warnings from Moscow that the non-indigenous population would be second-class citizens if independence were approved.

The balloting was similar to a Feb. 9 referendum in which

Lithuanians voted overwhelmingly in favour of independence.

"The freely expressed will of the Latvian nation has overcome and won a victory over the ideas expressed by the totalitarian regime," said Andrejs Krastins, deputy chairman of Latvia's parliament.

The votes were little more than a public opinion poll, but officials had hoped for a strong pro-independence vote so the three Baltic republics could march in step away from the Soviet Union.

The Baltics a year ago began their struggle to reverse the Kremlin's forced annexation of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in 1940. The three republics were independent between the wars.

The referendums also represented a strong challenge to Gorbachev, who has branded illegal the independence declarations last year by the Baltic republics.

Gorbachev has scheduled a nationwide referendum for March 17 on holding together the 15 Soviet republics. Leaders of the Baltics, as well as of the republics of Armenia, Georgia and Moldova, have said they won't participate.

Although Gorbachev has demanded the Baltic republics hold referendums before they may become independent, he nullified

last month's Lithuanian vote before it occurred and has criticised the Latvian and Estonian polls.

The question on the Latvian ballot was: "Do you support the democratic and independent statehood of the Republic of Latvia?"

Officials had said the votes of ethnic Russians in the two republics would be important to give weight to Sunday's referendums.

Krastins said early Monday that a majority voted for independence even in the city of Daugavpils, where ethnic Latvians make up only 12 per cent of the population. The rest of the city's residents are Russian, Ukrainian or Byelorussian.

"All those who live in Latvia and who are non-Latvians have proved they were altogether with the Latvian nation, and they are supporting the cause of independence," said Krastins.

"It means only one thing: The Latvian nation has firmly expressed the wish to be free, and nobody can stop us on the way to this freedom."

Only 54 per cent of Latvia's 2.7 million people are ethnic Latvians — 33 per cent are Russians. Sixty-five per cent of Estonia's 1.5 million residents are ethnic Estonians and 28 per cent are Russians.

The referendum was an emo-

tional issue. "We have dreamed all our lives about independence. Our fathers lived in a free Latvia," said Zinaida Radjabova, 49.

The Estonian News Agency (ETA) quoted election official Osvald Kukk as saying the vote would "show Moscow and, most of all, the whole world what people in Estonia want."

Kukk said Gorbachev tried to persuade the West that only a small percentage of Estonians wanted independence. "Now the world press is here to get the opposite story."

More than 112 independent observers, representing 14 foreign countries as well as Soviet republics, watched the balloting and no violations were reported.

The pro-Kremlin opposition group called "Ravnopravie" or Equal Rights, however, circulated a statement in Riga late Sunday citing violations in polling procedures, according to the Soviet State News Agency (TASS).

In Latvia, pro-Kremlin forces distributed leaflets and posters that warned that a "yes" vote would lead to a "totalitarian" regime and turn non-ethnic Latvians into second-class citizens. But they failed to dissuade many Russians from supporting the separatist cause.

## 25 killed in U.S. plane crash

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado (AP) — The United States Olympic Committee said two committee employees and a coach with the U.S. Cycling Federation were aboard a United jetliner that crashed Sunday.

The plane with 25 people aboard crashed in flames as it approached the Colorado Springs Airport on a flight from Denver.

Mike Moran, a spokesman for the U.S. Olympic Committee, said that among those on board the plane were Dr. Peter J. Van Handel, 45, a senior sports physiologist; Dr. Andrzej J. Komor, 39, a sports biochemist; and Dan Birkholtz, a cycling development coach and coordinator. Moran said all worked for the committee and lived in Colorado Springs.

United Flight 585 en route from Denver crashed at 9:55 a.m. (1655 GMT) four to five miles (seven or eight kilometres) south of the airport, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said in Washington. There were 20 passengers on board and a crew of five.

The FAA and the airline both said all aboard apparently were killed. The Boeing 737-200 narrowly missed houses and apartment buildings. At least one person on the ground was injured.

"All obviously are presumed dead," said Sgt. Dean Kelsey, of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office. However, he said he would not confirm that until search efforts had been exhausted.

Meyer said there was no communication from the pilot to the airport control tower indicating any problem before the crash.

A witness, army command Sgt. Maj. Leo Martinez, said that the plane banked sharply, veered and then crashed virtually nose first. "I watched and it went vertically into the ground," he said.

"There was a huge fireball, black smoke and orange flame," he said. "There was nothing — just debris, very small debris. You can see tires burning. I don't think there's a part larger than a suitcase. You can't see any wings ... or anything."

The plane crashed in a park surrounded by houses and apartment buildings.

Ed Arango, administrator at Memorial Hospital, said a 12-year-old girl who was in the doorway of her house suffered a head injury when she was blown backward by the force of the crash. She was in good condition, he said.

The weather was clear but there were high, gusty winds in the area at the time of the crash. Sheriff's Lt. Bill Mistretta said. Brent Bahler of the National Transportation Safety Board in Washington said a team of investigators were preparing to leave for Colorado.

Authorities at Stapleton International Airport in Denver, the plane's last stop before the crash, set up a lounge where relatives of passengers could go for information and comfort, said airport official Richard Boulware.

Colorado Springs is a city of 220,000 about 70 miles (113 kilometres) south of Denver.

Boulware said the plane's last stop before Denver was Moline, Illinois. Before that, it stopped in Peoria, Illinois.

Navy plane crashed

In a separate development, a navy plane crashed Sunday in a residential neighbourhood a half-mile south of the Glenview Naval Air Station, killing its three-person crew, officials said.

Eyewitnesses said the pilot appeared to take heroic actions in order to miss houses. The wreckage of the plane was strewn across a street in this Chicago suburb.

## 24 killed as rival blacks clash in Soweto township

JOHANNESBURG (R) — At least 24 people were killed in Soweto township at the weekend in South Africa's worst factional violence this year, straining a fragile truce between rival black political movements.

Police Colonel Tienie Halgryn said Monday 24 people were killed and 12 injured Sunday at a hostel for migrant workers in the Meadowlands district of Soweto, near Johannesburg.

He said unidentified men with knives and guns attacked Xhosa residents of the hostel Sunday, apparently in revenge for the murder of a Zulu inmate Friday evening.

"It was a counter-reaction," Halgryn told Reuters. He said police suspected some Zulu hostel dwellers were responsible for Sunday's killings but no arrests had yet been made.

A Visnews television news agency crew reported bodies strewn around the hostel's rooms and in surrounding fields.

The violence is the latest blow to a fragile truce between the African National Congress (ANC), South Africa's main anti-apartheid movement, and the rival Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP).

The truce is aimed at ending the worst urban violence for years.

More than 1,100 people were killed in a six-month war in Johannesburg's townships last year between Zulu hostel dwellers loyal to the IFP and township residents from other tribes who support the ANC.

More than 4,000 people have been killed in Natal province in the last five years as supporters of the two groups vie for political control of the province's townships.

ANC leader Nelson Mandela and IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, meeting for the first time in three decades, agreed on a peace pact on Jan. 29 and ordered their local officials to spread the message of reconciliation at the grassroots.

But a week ago two pro-ANC tribal chiefs were shot dead in the province and at the weekend senior ANC leader Harry Gwala escaped two assassination attempts.

Gunmen shot at Gwala as he addressed a peace rally in the town of Richmond Saturday. Police said they searched the area but made no arrests.

Gwala's daughter Pumla said that as her father was being driven to another rally in one of Pietermaritzburg's black townships Sunday, occupants of his car spotted "vigilantes armed with guns and waiting to ambush them."

## Croatian police move out of town after clash with Serbs

PAKRAC, Yugoslavia (R) — The Yugoslav Republic of Croatia started pulling its police out of the town of Pakrac Sunday after they clashed with the minority Serbian community.

The violence was the most serious for several months amid political quarrels between Serbia and Croatia, the two biggest Yugoslav republics and historical rivals for power. The situation has threatened the country with civil war.

The Yugoslav presidency sent in army troops Saturday after Serbs in Pakrac exchanged fire with the special Croatian police who had ordered them to hand in their weapons.

A convoy of police vehicles moved out of the town Sunday evening in a partial withdrawal after the clashes in which shots were fired but no one was reported killed.

The police withdrawal was in response to an order by the Yugoslav state presidency for all police and army to move out of Pakrac by midnight.

A local police official said some police would remain to keep

"The car was turned around to avoid the ambush," she said.

Police probe right-wing rebel group

Meanwhile police are investigating a purported right-wing guerrilla group that listed President F.W. de Klerk and black leader Nelson Mandela as possible targets, according to news reports Sunday.

The Sunday Star newspaper reported the group, called the Boer Republican Army, called for guerrilla warfare against the government, anti-apartheid figures, foreign officials and business leaders.

A document circulated by the group to right-wing supporters included information on "joining the organisation, guerrilla tactics and potential targets, the newspaper said."

Police Capt. Craig Kotze said police were investigating the document's authenticity.

"There are scores of extremist white splinter groups and it would first have to be established whether this alleged group does in fact exist," he told the South African Press Association. "All threats of this nature are taken seriously by the police."

Right-wing whites have threatened armed revolt against government moves toward ending apartheid and sharing power with the black majority. Most pro-apartheid whites are Afrikaners, the Dutch-descended settlers of South Africa also known as Boers.

UDF to dissolve

In a separate development, an anti-apartheid coalition formed eight years ago to support the exiled ANC said Monday it would dissolve itself because a non-racial democracy would soon be realised in South Africa.

"The government has begun the search for a negotiated settlement with the majority of South Africa's people," United Democratic Front (UDF) President Albertina Sisulu told a news conference.

The UDF, a coalition of over 700 anti-apartheid groups, was formed in 1983 to oppose a new constitution which made Indians and mixed-race coloureds junior partners in parliament but left out the black majority.

"Black and white South Africans now agree that the tricameral parliament is unacceptable and undemocratic," Sisulu said.

Sisulu said the UDF's goals — the release of anti-apartheid leaders such as Nelson Mandela, the lifting of bans on dissident groups and the return of political exiles — had all been realised.

## COLUMN 8

### No time for happy clothes

MILAN (AP) — Recession and the Gulf war have taken the spunk out of the fashion crowd. As the five-day Italian ready-to-wear collections for fall-winter 1991-1992 got underway, the mood in Milan was quiet and business-like. Many reporters and buyers decided to stay home this season, dissuaded from travelling by the specter of attacks and a shrinking company pocketbook. And those who did turn up are dressed somberly compared with past seasons when more outrageous outfits were seen off the runway than on, and gossip in the halls of the Milan Trade Fair, where most of the shows are held, concentrates more on war-related subjects than hemlines. Even the choice of runway music is influenced by the present crisis. The sexy clad models at Dolce and Gabbana marched to the tune of No More War. No More Violence. For the first time people must pass through a metal detector before entering the fair grounds, and those attending the shows are asked to carry identification at all times. From the business angle, designers have already made plans to take trunk shows to the buyers who opted not to come to Milan, as well as sending photos and sketches of the collection and a video tape of the show. But when it comes to creativity there are two distinct schools of thought as to how to fight the present slump. Some, as Aldo Panto of Krizia put it in a recent interview, feel this is "no time for too happy clothes," while others like Dolce and Gabbana figure that a fashion pick-me-up is just what's needed.

Solo sailor breaks boom in race

PUNTA DEL ESTE, Uruguay (R) — English sailor Josh Hall broke his yacht's boom in a 60-knot gale near Cape Horn but kept sailing in the third leg to the BOC challenge round-the-world solo race, organisers said. Hall, at 26 one of the youngest competitors among the 17 yachtsmen left in the 27,000-mile race, was sailing his spirit of Ipswich over mountain-like waves to Punta Del Este, a beach resort on Uruguay's Atlantic coast. Frenchman Alain Gautier's General Concorde still led the race and was expected to reach Punta Del Este Tuesday, ending the 7,200-mile third stage that started on Feb. 5 in Sydney. Organisers said seven other participants had recently rounded the cape: Hungary's Alba Regia, France's Credit Agricole IV, Servant IV Ecureuil, South Africa's Grinnaker, Spain's BBV Expo 92 and Australia's Jarkan.

Police free shark stranded among sunbathers

ST. PETERSBURG BEACH, Florida (AP) — A three-metre shark stuck on a sandbar at low tide initially frightened beachgoers, then drew a crowd. The shark was believed to be a mako, rarely seen in shallow waters and known to attack people. It was seen cruising with another shark Friday between Pass-A-Grille Beach and a sandbar 16 metres out. Witnesses said the shark was trapped by low tide in the late afternoon and the waves eventually pushed it onto the beach. The other shark made it over the sandbar. Police, who warned a crowd of about 30 onlookers to back off, rescued the stranded shark by tying a rope to its tail and using a boat to tow it to deeper water.

Graf's father cleared in paternity suit

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — Peter Graf, father of top-ranked women's tennis player Steffi Graf, has been cleared in a paternity suit filed by model Nicole Meissner, a newspaper has reported. The mass-circulation newspaper Bild said court-ordered blood tests in the paternity suit proved that Peter Graf did not father Meissner's daughter. The case has attracted front-page attention in German media and was blamed by Steffi Graf as affecting her concentration last year, when she seemingly lost her dominance over the women's circuit. Peter Graf serves as his daughter's manager. Ms. Meissner has claimed that her daughter was born out of a relationship with Peter Graf. Peter Graf has denied that he is the father of the child. Steffi Graf held the no. 1 ranking on the Virginia Slims computer for record 186 weeks, although she could lose it this week to Monica Seles of Yugoslavia.

## Democrats urge Gorbachev to resign

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union's democratic reformers have joined forces in an anti-Communist coalition and called for President Mikhail Gorbachev's resignation. TASS reported.

Twenty-one groups from 11 of the 15 republics joined forces during the meeting of the Democratic Congress according to TASS, the state news agency.

For the first time, representatives of disparate groups joined forces with a common, well-defined goal.

The group called for Gorbachev's resignation as president and transfer of power to the Federation Council, which includes the presidents of all 15 republics; a rejection of preservation of the Soviet Union in a national referendum planned by

the Kremlin for March 17; the drafting of a "treaty of a commonwealth of sovereign states" as an alternative to Gorbachev's proposed new union treaty, and a rejection of communism.

The treaty will be worked out at a conference of parliamentarians from each republic, to be held on April 21-23 in Moscow. TASS said.

The goals are a cohesive challenge to Gorbachev's policies.

Gorbachev is under attack from both ends of the Soviet political spectrum. Reformers say he has abandoned his own policies and taken the country toward dictatorship, violence, and censorship. Hardliners blame Gorbachev and his reforms for the splintering of the union and demand a harsher crackdown and

Gorbachev's replacement by a dictatorial committee.

In calling for Gorbachev's resignation, the Democratic Congress rallied behind Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who provoked a nationwide controversy by making such a suggestion during a television interview on Feb. 19. He accused Gorbachev of sacrificing democratic reforms to gain personal power and accused the president of leading the country to a dictatorship.

The Democratic Congress includes the Democratic Russia Movement; the Ukrainian People's Front, called Rukh; a miners' union; the Byelorussian National Front and small political parties from several other republics, the Postfactum News Agency said.

## Protestant 'loyalists' kill four in Northern Ireland

BELFAST (AP) — Gunmen killed four people and wounded one at a pub Sunday night, police said. The bar was popular with Catholics and the gunmen were believed to be Protestant "loyalists," the news agency Press Association reported.

The wounded man was listed in serious condition with gunshot wounds at a Belfast hospital, said a spokesman for the Royal Ulster Constabulary, who requested anonymity.

A witness said the gunmen fired on four men in a car as it pulled up in front of Boyle's Pub in the village of Cappagh, about 80 kilometres west of Belfast.

"One of the men in the car, a cousin of mine, attempted obviously to escape by jumping over a wall, however he was fatally wounded," the unidentified witness told British Broadcasting Corp. Radio. "Another man inside the bar ran for cover to the toilet and one of the gunmen went up and put the gun

in through the toilet window and sprayed the inside of the toilet."

The BBC said the man inside the pub was killed as were three occupants of the car. The gunmen's burned out car was later found a few kilometres away, the BBC said.

The "loyalist" paramilitary groups rooted in Northern Ireland's majority Protestant community have generally attacked people they claim are members of the Irish Republican Army or other groups opposed to British rule.

The IRA's military campaign is supported by a minority of Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland. It grew out of the Catholic civil rights protests and violent clashes of the 1960s. The IRA has attacked police and army units in its effort to end British rule in the province, and it has killed people it claims were members of Protestant paramilitary groups, informers or collaborators with British rule.

## Some former E. German secret archives missing

BERLIN (AP) — Ousted East German leader Erich Honecker ordered all documents detailing the construction of the Berlin Wall separated from other classified government files, and the records are now missing, a newspaper has said.

The Berliner Morgenpost based its report on an interview with Friedrich Kahlenberg, head of the German Federal Archives, which took custody of the tonnes of East German government documents after unification.

According to Kahlenberg, Honecker ordered that the records on the construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961 be separated from other government archives some time before the peaceful revolution that toppled the East German government in 1989, the newspaper said.

It has not been determined, however, whether the records were destroyed or hidden somewhere, the newspaper continued. Kahlenberg, in the interview, did not say whether he believed the records were significant or of purely historical interest.

Honecker faces charges in connection with the deaths of people killed while trying to flee over the Berlin Wall.

The Berlin newspaper also reported that the former East German government records in-

cluded archives of the former Ministry for State Security, or Stasi, on West Germans who were active during the Nazi era.

"From these Stasi archives actions were obviously begun to blackmail politicians and other senior people in West Germany," the newspaper said. It did not elaborate.

In a related matter, the Bonn newspaper Die Welt reported in its weekend edition that the Stasi paid a West German politician 50,000 marks (\$33,000) in 1972 for a parliamentary vote that ultimately helped keep then-Chancellor Willy Brandt in power.

The Berliner Morgenpost also said parts of the diaries kept by Nazi propaganda chief Joseph Goebbels after 1941 were discovered in the old East German archives. Goebbels' diaries from 1933 to 1941 have been public for some time. Other historic documents were also in the archives, the newspaper said.

Honecker is being held in a Soviet military hospital outside Berlin, where he is reportedly ill. German justice authorities have issued an arrest warrant for the 78-year-old Honecker, charging him with the deaths of would-be escapees from former East Germany.

## New Bangladesh government likely today

DHAKA (R) — Begum Khaleda Zia is likely to be sworn in as Bangladesh prime minister at the head of a new government Tuesday after her sweeping victory in parliamentary elections, official sources said.

"Khaleda Zia has been asked to finalise a list of the members of her cabinet which will possibly be sworn in tomorrow," one source said Monday.

Khaleda's victory in the polls last Wednesday severely embarrassed her archrival Sheikh Hasina, who is reported to be on the verge of quitting as leader of the Awami League.

The newspaper Ittefaq said Monday that Hasina, daughter of first Bangladesh President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, had already submitted her resignation to party General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury. The report could not be independently confirmed.

Khaleda's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) won 140 out of the 294 parliamentary seats contested in the elections, which foreign monitoring teams termed the first fair polls in the country in 20 years.

The Awami League won 84 seats, followed by the Jatiya Party of former President Hossain Mohammad Ershad with 35 and the Muslim fundamentalist Jamaat-E-Islami with 18.

An aide to acting President Shahabuddin Ahmad told reporters Ahmad had decided a cabinet could be formed after talks on Sunday with Khaleda, the widow of ex-president Ziaur Rahman who was assassinated in a 1981 abortive coup.

Ahmad, a supreme court justice who took over after Ershad resigned in December in the face of a bitter opposition campaign, said parliament might be called into session on April 5 after voting was completed in six outstanding constituencies.

Deaths of candidates forced the delay of polls in two constituencies, while new polls were ordered in four after complaints of irregularities.

The BNP is 11 seats short of an absolute majority in the 300-member parliament but hopes for support from smaller parties.

## Sri Lankan violence claims 13 more lives

COLOMBO (AP) — Thirteen people, including nine civilians, have been killed in the latest violence in northern and eastern Sri Lanka where Tamil rebels are fighting government troops, military officials said Monday.

Five of the civilians were Sinhalese whose bodies with gunshot wounds were recovered Monday by government troops in the eastern Trincomalee district, the officials said, reporting on deaths during the past 24 hours.

The three women and two men may have been killed by Tamil rebels, protesting a government-sponsored programme to re-settle people in the region, the officials said.

The rebels also fatally shot four Tamil civilians Sunday in the eastern Batticaloa district, according to the officials who cannot be identified under briefing rules.

At Elephant Pass in the northern Jaffna district, government troops shot and killed four Tamil rebels Sunday, the officials said. Elephant Pass, 290 kilometres northeast of the capital of Colombo, is the gateway to the Jaffna peninsula, the main rebel stronghold.

At least 14,000 people have been killed since 1983 when Tamil rebels began a separatist campaign to establish an independent state for their ethnic community.

Tamils represent 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people. They accuse the Sinhalese majority of discriminating against them in jobs and education. Sinhalese, which make up 75 per cent of the population, control the government and military.

The Jaffna district is virtually entirely Tamil, but the Batticaloa and Trincomalee regions about 200 kilometres east and northeast of Colombo are equally divided among Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims.

Tamil guerrillas have frequently attacked Sinhalese and Muslims, who comprise 7 per cent of the national population.

SEOUL (AP) — The governing party announced Monday that local elections would be held this month for the first time in 30 years, but opposition parties denounced the move as an attempt to divert public attention from a major bribery scandal.

The opposition parties immediately countered by announcing plans to hold major protest rallies, starting this weekend.

Dozens of leading dissidents, on the fourth day of a protest sit-in in the office of a dissident group in Seoul, said they would join the opposition parties in opposing the elections. They claimed the elections are aimed at covering up scandal.

The governing party's decision to call early elections created additional tension in Korean politics already hit hard by the bribery scandal, the largest since President Roh Tae-Woo took office in 1988.

## Seoul calls 1st local elections in 30 years

"The elections are nothing but a scheme to cover up the scandal," Park Sang-Chun, a legislator and a spokesman for the main opposition group, the Party for Peace and Democracy, said in a statement.

He said his party, aligned with other opposition and dissident groups, will hold a major protest rally in Seoul Saturday demanding a new probe of the scandal he claimed has implicated Roh, his aides and party officials.

But Park declined to say whether his party would boycott the elections.

In a long-awaited move, the governing Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) formally decided Monday to hold some local elections later this month. They would be Korea's first elections for local self-rule since 1961.

The March elections are to form local legislatures for cities, counties and wards. Elections for

larger areas, including special cities and provinces, are to be held later. Both elections originally had been scheduled for May.

The decision to hold early elections came amid mounting public criticism over a real estate scandal allegedly involving top government officials. Nine people, including a presidential aide and five legislators, so far have been arrested.

Those arrested were charged with taking bribes totaling \$1.4 million in return for peddling influence to help a developer get permission to build an illegal housing project in a restricted area.

Roh fired two cabinet ministers, reshuffled the government party leadership and apologised on national television for the scandal. Criticism mounted after the prosecution closed its probe apparently prematurely.

Despite adverse public opinion, Roh's party appears to believe that it has little to lose in the local elections, in which political parties cannot get directly involved. Under law, political parties cannot campaign or back candidates in local elections.

Meanwhile, 50 dissidents, including the Rev. Moon Ik-Hwan, continued their sit-in protest for the fourth day Monday, demanding that Roh step down to take responsibility for the scandal.

The dissidents said they would launch a nationwide campaign to boycott the local elections. They proposed a nationwide alliance to oust Roh.

"We consider the scandal an inevitable outcome of the dishonest policies of the Roh government which supports only chaebol or tycoons," the dissidents said in a statement. Chaebol are huge business conglomerates.

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